



THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow



English rose
Claire Bloom,
an actress still
in the limelight

Poor students
The NUS president
calls for a radical
review of grants

The collaborators
Blacks on the wrong
side of the
South African divide

Top tennis
Rex Bellamy previews
West Germany v
Sweden in the
Davis Cup finals

Portfolio

There were six winners in the Times £2,000 Portfolio competition yesterday. Mr E. Uchegbue of London, Mr F. Wilson of Watford, Herts, Mr F. Hens of Cophorne, W. Sussex, Mrs Helen Elkins of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, Mr John Morris of West Bromwich, Notts, and Mr C. Atkins of Birmingham each receive £333.33. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

US-Soviet harmony in jeopardy

A senior Kremlin adviser cast a doubt on Soviet-US harmony in the wake of the Geneva summit meeting with a fierce attack on the Reagan Administration. Violent criticism of Mr. Gorbachev and of Mr. George Shultz are seen as evidence of the fragility of the new approach to détente.

Damages lost

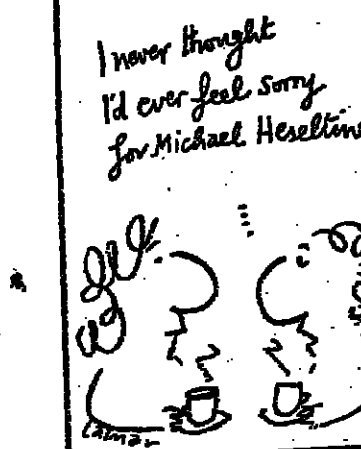
Appeal judges in Edinburgh have overturned a £102,000 award of damages to a boy said to have been made deaf by a hospital penicillin overdose.

Clemency plea

Australia is to seek clemency for two 28-year-old drug smugglers whose appeal against the death sentence was rejected in Malaysia.

Pay rises slow

Average earnings rose at an annual rate of 6.0 per cent in October, well below September's 10.1 per cent rate, but still ahead of inflation.



Play-off plan

Play-offs are included in a plan, supported by Football League clubs and players' representatives, in an effort to end the threat of a "super league".

Team effort

Teamwork is now a key factor in helping employees to achieve their potential in Britain's slimmed-down industry, says Chris Coverdale, managing director of a consultancy and training company, in an introduction to today's General Appointments section.

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MPs support Heseltine in Westland campaign

Mr Michael Heseltine has won the Commons defence committee's crucial support for his Westland helicopters Cabinet campaign.

The company signed an agreement yesterday with Sikorsky and Fiat to give them together a 30% stake in Westland.

The rival European consortium said it would lobby Westland shareholders to overturn the deal.

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday won the crucial backing of the Commons defence committee for his high-risk campaign to persuade the Cabinet to take responsibility for Britain's helicopter industry.

At a private meeting at Westminster, he took members of the all-party committee through the arguments which he has put to a Cabinet sub-committee but has not yet been allowed to develop before the full Cabinet.

He appears to have persuaded a majority that his plan for a joint European rescue for the endangered helicopter maker Westland should, in the national interest, be preferred to the package preferred by the Westland board.

Westland signed an agreement with Sikorsky of the United States and Fiat of Italy yesterday that will give them together a 30 per cent holding in Westland. That is subject to shareholders' approval.

Details of the proposed arrangements will be published today.

Mr Heseltine told the select committee that details of the rival proposal, in which the General Electric Company and British Aerospace have joined with Aerospaciale, of France, Agusta, of Italy, and MBB, of West Germany, will also be made known today or tomorrow.

The vital point on which he won the committee's backing was that the arguments in favour of his European solution should be fully examined and the national interest taken fully into account.

He supplied details of his outline agreement with Britain's European partners and the committee agreed to publish them, saying that the defence implications of any change at Westland should be fully explored.

The committee, which has in the past been critical of Mr Heseltine and some of his defence savings, was impressed by his arguments and his manner. He refused to be drawn into argument against his colleagues in the Cabinet.

He appears to have won support from some members of the committee who have misgivings about his defiance of the Prime Minister in his insistence that the future of Westland cannot be a matter for the Government alone.

He expounded his fears, which most of the committee appeared to share, that the arrangement with Sikorsky would destroy the gains in European co-operation secured through the European fighter aircraft, and lead to Sikorsky's first gaining control of Westland and then closing it.

The Westland question is not on the agenda for today's Cabinet.

It was said yesterday that Mr Heseltine remained somewhat isolated among his colleagues, but it was also said on the Prime Minister's behalf that there was no objection in principle to a European solution if Mr Heseltine could find one attractive to the Westland board.

A growing number of Conservative MPs, among whom opinion appeared to be moving in Mr Heseltine's favour yesterday, take the view that the select committee's backing and yesterday's support by the Defence Manufacturers' Association for a European solution, may have already created a new political situation.

If within 24 hours the Westland board and shareholders find themselves with two distinct proposals, each equally sound industrially, as now seems certain, then Mr Heseltine may yet find his lost cause victorious after all.

Draft deal, back page

GLC were "broadly neutral" in their effect.

But the figures show that while shire counties and districts will lose £277 million in block grant, London boroughs will gain £221 million, and metropolitan districts will gain £84 million.

Mr David Blunkett, deputy chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, accused Mr Baker of "clever and cynical political manipulation" aimed at easing rate bills in abolition areas, in the hope of winning support in next May's local government elections.

The Association of County Councils said that the overall figures were £1,500 million short of the amount needed to maintain present services "at reasonable levels".

Mr John Lovell, the association's chairman, said that the settlement was "particularly disadvantageous to shire counties", and would lead to an increased burden on ratepayers that "could be more than 20 per cent".

The level of spending which the Government calculates councils need, rose by only 5.9 per cent for the shires, against an average of 7.4 per cent.

"The inevitable consequence of today's settlement is that rate increases will be well above the level of inflation", Mr Lovell said.

The Association of District Councils said that a third of ratepayers outside big cities could expect rate increases of more than 10 per cent.

"Ironically, many of those most badly hit by today's settlement are those which have always responded to government exhortations to keep their expenditure within targets set by Whitehall".

It said that examples were continued on back page, col 7

Overall, government grant will go up by £400 million to the £11,800 million, with a total allowed for council spending rising by 4.5 per cent to £22,750 million. Although the Government's share in funding the local services stays roughly the same, at 46.4 per cent, the proportion going to shire counties and districts will go down to 43 per cent.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs that changes to the grant system to take account of abolishing the six metropolitan counties and the

Rescue deal signed with Sikorsky

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Westland signed an agreement with the American Sikorsky company last night, despite the continuing public controversy over the future of the helicopter company.

The deal, which remains subject to shareholder approval, will give Sikorsky nearly 30 per cent of Westland's shares as part of a £70 million financial reconstruction which is aimed at saving Westland from receivership.

Today the company will disclose the extent of its financial difficulties: losses in the year to September will have been at least £80 million and could have topped £100 million. That is 10 times worse than some City analysts had predicted.

"The order of magnitude of the financial problems is simply massive, people just don't realize," Westland's chairman, Sir John Cunneen, said yesterday.

Despite the Sikorsky agreement, the rival European consortium will meet today to finalize its own proposals for Westland. It intends that shareholders should have details of both schemes before they vote early next year.

The European consortium, which included British Aerospace, Aerospaciale Agusta and Messerschmitt-Böckow-Blom, complained yesterday that its

efforts to come up with a firm proposal for Westland had been hampered by the company's refusal to provide it with the same financial information that had been made available to Sikorsky.

Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank acting for Westland, denied the accusation, and claimed that there were some details which had been released to Sikorsky only at the last moment when it was clear that a commercial deal could be concluded.

Sir John remains highly sceptical of the prospects for any European solution. "Two of the companies involved have already told me that they would prefer to see Westland fold," he said yesterday. He added that Aerospaciale, the French helicopter manufacturer, was an important competitor and would not be an easy partner. "In half the world we are deadly rivals", he said.

His intention was to conclude a deal with Sikorsky as quickly as possible. "If I can do that I will have done what was asked when the Bank of England brought me in as chairman", he said. "Otherwise, Westland will be in receivership". Both Barclays Bank and National Westminster are parties to the deal with Sikorsky, which also involves Fiat of Italy.

Continued on back page, col 1

Paris (Reuters) - The French Government and executives from the Walt Disney organization yesterday signed a letter of intent for Europe's first Disneyland amusement park, a deal won in the face of stiff competition from Spain and Portugal.

The Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius, presided over the signing of what French officials said would be the largest organization spending more than £650 million on a contract which could provide up to 30,000 jobs.

Disney Productions president, Mr Michael Eisner, said the letter of intent would lead to a final contract in three months time. He said the company that would own and run the park would be French and most of the investment would be from French and other European sources.

The amusement park, Disney's fourth and only the second one outside the United States, will be located near the new town of Marne-la-Vallée, 16 miles east of Paris. Disneyland in California was opened in 1955. Disneyland in Florida in 1971, and Disneyland in Tokyo two years ago, the first outside the US.

Officials say the Paris park will take five years to build, with 7,000 jobs being created during construction. The French expect up to 30,000 jobs to be created directly connected with the park.

Mail publishers take over The Standard

By Robin Young

London's evening newspaper The Standard passed into the sole ownership of the Daily Mail publishers, Associated Newspapers, yesterday.

The announcement fulfilled widespread expectation that the ships and construction group, Trafalgar House, would complete its withdrawal from the press industry by disposing of the half-share in The Standard with which it was left when floating the rest of its press interests off as Fleet Holdings in 1982.

The joint ownership of The Standard originated five years ago when the Evening News, part of the Associated Group, was closed and merged with its

Continued on back page, col 1



The Princess of Wales with Jamie Gavin, aged 4, from Dublin, the youngest heart-lung transplant patient, when the Princess presented bravery awards at Westminster Abbey yesterday. Children of Courage, page 5.

Rate bills 'could rise by 20%' in low-spending Tory councils

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Ratepayers in some low-spending Conservative-controlled councils face increases of up to 20 per cent in next year's rate bills after yesterday's announcement of central government grants, local government associations claimed.

Inner-city areas, most of which face county council or Greater London Council abolition next April, will gain from changes in the calculation of rate support grant, although Labour council leaders attacked the Government for making "merely cosmetic adjustments".

Overall, government grant will go up by £400 million to the £11,800 million, with a total allowed for council spending rising by 4.5 per cent to £22,750 million. Although the Government's share in funding the local services stays roughly the same, at 46.4 per cent, the proportion going to shire counties and districts will go down to 43 per cent.

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It said that examples were continued on back page, col 7

Paris site for new Disneyland

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock was given a warning by his left-wing allies yesterday that he cannot count on their support for a full-scale purge of the Militant Tendency.

After Labour's National Executive Committee had confirmed by only one vote the expulsion from the Party of a Sheffield councillor for selling the Militant newspaper, Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council and chairman of Labour's local government committee, said the decision was regrettable and foolish.

More significantly, Mr Kinnock was deserted in the 14 to 13 vote not only by Mr Blunkett but by other soft-left colleagues, who had backed him in his actions against the Liverpool militants.

Mr Michael Meacher, the chief Labour spokesman on social services, Mr Tom Sawyer, Mr Eddie Haigh and Mrs Audrey Wise all declined to support the expulsion of the councillor, Mr Paul Green.

The vote came after heated debate in the executive about Militant, highlighted by angry clashes between Mr Kinnock and Mr Tony Benn, and between Mr Blunkett and Mr Benn, and another strong attack by the Labour leader on Militant tactics.

Mr Kinnock accused Mr Benn of suffering from "mischievous hallucinations" after Mr Benn had attacked the proposed expulsion, saying "the

party starts here with the expulsion of this man and ends up joining the SDP".

During the debate, Mr Kinnock also challenged Militant to provide a list of its members and accused the tendency of "organized falsehoods" in trying to pretend it was just like other groups within the party.

But the vote on the expulsion of Mr Green showed clearly that if he widens his attack on Militant, as many MPs and members of the shadow cabinet would like, he risks alienating his supporters on the left.

Mr Blunkett said outside the party's headquarters in south London: "We live in an atmosphere at the moment where association with the Militant Tendency and its newspaper Tendency is a stigma that is a sledgehammer to crack a nut".

The Sheffield Labour group and leadership of the city party had opposed Mr Green's expulsion, he said. "We found it difficult in accommodating him as a member. He has never promoted a separate programme from that of the Labour Party."

"He has never caused disruption or made statements that have embarrassed the party. My view has always been, and will remain, that people like that, who are opposed to organized tendencies or factions, should be dealt with by political persuasion."

Continued on back page, col 6

Paris (Reuters) - The French Government and executives from the Walt Disney organization yesterday signed a letter of intent for Europe's first Disneyland amusement park, a deal won in the face of stiff competition from Spain and Portugal.

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English test case for TSB

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The Trustee Savings Bank is to bring a test case in the English High Court to determine the rights of borrowers in TSB England & Wales before its planned flotation next year.

The new court action will run at the same time as the TSB's appeal against the recent ruling by a Scottish judge that depositors in TSB Scotland owned the bank's assets. The ruling, which contradicted the legal advice on which the TSB's flotation plans were based, has forced the bank to delay flotation indefinitely until the legal problems are sorted out.

The main defendant in the English case is Dr John Vincent, a Methodist minister from Sheffield. He and eight other depositors had planned to bring a court action similar to the one in Scotland, but the TSB decided the process would be quicker if it brought an action first. The TSB is also named as a defendant although it is acting in support of the TSB in the Scottish appeal.

Dr Vincent will represent the interests of all TSB England & Wales depositors and the bank has offered to pay his legal expenses. The TSB will also pay the expenses incurred by the Scottish depositors during the appeal in Edinburgh.

Dr Vincent said: "In as much as it is a matter of principle, everything is in our favour. But he added that slightly different laws govern the English and the Scottish TSB and the English ruling might not be the same as the Scottish one."

If the court actions in each country produced different results the House of Lords would be required to give a final decision on both, according to legal experts. The bank's appeal in Scotland is unlikely to be heard before February 11, but the English action could delay the flotation beyond next summer - the earliest date hoped for by the TSB if there were appeals.

The TSB hopes the courts will rule in both cases that its depositors are entitled to the return of their deposits and interest due on them but have no rights to the bank's assets. The TSB's assets include £800 million in reserves.

The TSB hopes to raise about £1 billion from the flotation plans, but all the proceeds would go to the TSB.

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Reagan reveals in tax Bill triumph

From Michael Binyon
Washington

The House of Representatives has voted for the most sweeping overhaul of the US tax system in 40 years in an historic triumph for President Reagan. The Bill, which many mutinous Republicans had tried to bury, will now go to the Senate.

After intense lobbying, Mr Reagan managed to persuade enough Republicans to support introduction of the Bill, which was then passed by a voice vote late on Tuesday night. No Republicans insisted on a roll call.

"Tax reform is alive and well and kicking," Mr Reagan said yesterday. "What's that I heard about lame-duckery?"

The President's spectacular victory in reviving the most important piece of domestic legislation of his second term was achieved with the active support of Mr Dan Rostenkowski, the Democratic chairman of the House ways and means committee, who drafted the Bill. Both men lobbied andajoined wavering Republicans and Democrats into voting.

Mr Rostenkowski later raised a glass of champagne and said: "This toast is to the American taxpayers. I think they won a big victory tonight."

Mr Reagan congratulated members of both parties who had worked to enable the arduous process of tax reform to go forward. Signalling his hope of reversing some of the compromises thrust on him by the Democrats, he said he looked to the Senate to "make the necessary changes" in the Bill to ensure it was "unequivocally pro-family, pro-jobs and pro-growth".

The President's achievement in getting the Bill through the House on borrowed time, after it was all but written off, is considerable and helps him to regain the initiative and refute charges that he has become a lame duck. The victory was soured, however, by the refusal of his own party's leadership to back him.

Mr Reagan was sufficiently elated to hold a special ceremony to mark the signing of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Amendment which forces the total elimination of the budget deficit by 1991. He signed it into law last week, but in his embarrassment over the Republican tax Bill mutiny did not have a public ceremony.

Trade Bill vetoed, page 17

Gas monopoly to end

Britain's first onshore gas field is to begin production on New Year's Day, breaking the British Gas monopoly of supplying industry.

Taylor Woodrow Energy is to send the field's entire output to a South Humberstone brick-works.

The Hatfield Moor field between Doncaster and Scun-

thorpe - small by North Sea standards - will provide 300,000 cubic feet of gas a day for the Belton Brickworks owned by a private company, Incec-Lee.

British Gas will still provide gas for one of the Belton kilns, but it is unable to meet demands for additional supplies.

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High restaurant prices blamed for rise of snack-eating Britons

By Patricia Clough

Britons are not eating out nearly as much as they could, office Christmas lunches notwithstanding, and the high prices charged by better restaurants are to blame, according to a survey published yesterday.

Instead, the nation appears to be consoling itself by devouring potato crisps, nuts and other savoury snacks at home in vast and rapidly increasing quantities.

In 1975 Britain got through £194 million of crisps and snacks; by 1984 it was absorbing £805 million worth or 0.3 per cent of national spending. Next year the figure looks like being £930 million, according to a survey by Mintel Publications, a market research analyst.

Although there seems to be plenty of money available for nibbling, particularly among young people, eating out is still regarded as a considerable luxury. While in 1975 it accounted for 2.29 per cent of total spending (£1,886 million) it has risen only fractionally in the past decade to 2.35 per cent (£6,100 million) this year.

Public houses that serve food and take-away restaurants are doing best but compared with the United States and elsewhere

the market is failing to realize its potential, the survey found.

The catering industry itself must bear part of the blame because of the high prices (by US and Continental standards) charged by good quality restaurants, it said.

The survey also found that the proportion of Britons who own their own home, and with it a basis of wealth, is increasing steadily, but the nation as a whole is unsophisticated in its attitude to savings.

The proportion of owner-occupied homes has risen from 29.5 per cent in 1950 to 63 per cent in 1983. Council-rented homes which were 18 per cent of the total in 1950 and 31.5 per cent in 1980, are now 29 per cent, while privately rented accommodation has plummeted from 52 per cent in 1950 to 13 per cent in 1980 and 8 per cent this year.

Nearly half the people living in rented accommodation want to own their own homes and the desire was strongest among the 15 to 19 year age group where 69 per cent wanted eventually to buy a house or flat. The proportion decreases steadily with increasing age and in the over 65 age group only 13 per

cent would like still to own their homes.

"We imagine this is probably a socio-economic group which never imagined owning a house and at that age would feel it was too late anyway," a spokeswoman for Mintel said.

Altogether £40,900 million of the nation's total gross household income of £208,000 million was spent on housing in 1984, while food accounted for only £25,700 million and clothes for £11,000 million.

When it comes to saving the choice is building societies, where 62 per cent of people questioned had accounts, but only 2 per cent held unit trusts.

According to the survey, the pattern of marriage is changing. In about a quarter of first-time marriages the couples have lived together first.

When one or both of the partners have been married before, the likelihood of their cohabiting before marriage rises to two thirds.

Since 1975 income tax has grown by 144 per cent. This trend is offset by a 269 per cent rise in National Insurance contributions.

Lifestyles (Mintel Publications, 7 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DR; £450).

Business leaders better paid abroad

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Britain's top business executives, who have faced widespread criticism for awarding themselves large pay rises in the past year, continue to be less well off than their counterparts abroad, according to a new survey.

Inbucan, the London management consultancy, says that, while British executives have seen their salaries increase by an average of 10 per cent, in real terms they are worse paid than their leading competitors whose cost of living has fallen compared with the British.

Inbucan says that £100 of goods and services bought in New York now costs £18.90 less than in April this year. Canada and Australia are also shown to have become less expensive, although in Japan the same goods and services will now cost £7.10 more than in April.

Figures adjusted for the cost of living in different countries show that the United States, Canada, Australia, Spain, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy and West Germany are all cheaper than six months ago for the average managing director to live and work.

On that basis, the British managing director of a marketing and distribution company with annual sales of £20 million and employing 450 workers is paid about £23,100 a year net of tax and ranks thirteenth in a table of his counterparts in 21 countries.

Top of the table is the Swiss executive, paid an average of £44,700 net, followed by the New York-based American with £38,800.

The worst paid managing director, according to Inbucan, is the Portuguese with £13,800, International Taxation and Living Costs (£120) and International Monitor (£25) (Inbucan Management Consultants, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RN).



Life-saving gift for elderly

Mrs Rosalind Runcie, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, setting out yesterday from Lambeth Palace, London, to deliver the 2,500th life-saving pendant from the old people's charity Care Trust to an elderly woman living alone in the East End. If a recipient needs help he or she pushes the pendant which activates a microphone in a Carephone, alerting a monitored computer in Care House, London. The scheme has saved many people who have had falls or been taken ill (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

£102,000 award for deaf boy is overturned

By Ronald Faux

Damages of £102,000 awarded to a boy aged 12 said to have been made profoundly deaf by an accidental overdose of penicillin was overturned yesterday at the Edinburgh Quarter Sessions.

The court found in favour of the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, who appealed against the award to Andrew Kay, who was treated with the penicillin at Seafeld Children's Hospital, Ayr, when he was two.

The board had admitted that an overdose had been administered and had offered Mr James Kay and his wife Madge an out-of-court settlement of £6,000.

Lord Emslie, the Lord President, said they would award £3,000 and interest of £4,275.

Last March, in the Quarter Sessions, Lord Davidson awarded £102,000 damages against the board, but the appeal judges overruled the decision yesterday, describing it as indefensible.

Lord Emslie said that Lord

Davidson had gone "far out" with his judicial role in awarding the damages. He said that the simple truth in the tragic case was that on the evidence the only possible conclusion was that the boy's deafness was attributable to meningitis alone.

The boy was given 300,000 units of penicillin instead of 10,000. Afterwards he suffered a seizure, muscular twitching, turned blue and had difficulty in breathing.

The board said the seizure and breathing difficulties were the only result of the overdose and cleared up within hours.

Lord Emslie said that penicillin had never been known to cause internal ear damage or to have contributed to deafness.

Mr Kay, aged 55, a geography teacher from Ardayre, Prestwick, who has fought the case largely by himself, intends to appeal to the House of Lords or the European Court of Human Rights.

Four years for mother who beat child to death

A young mother battered her baby son to death after pleading for help from social workers and admitting to her family doctor that she had hit the child, Nottingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Maureen Ricketts, aged 21, of Hartley Road Radford, Nottingham, was convicted of the manslaughter of her son, Ruben Carthy, aged two, on or about February 4, 1985, and was jailed for four years. She was also found guilty of cruelty and jailed for 21 months to run concurrently. Mr Justice Jones said she had used "unbridled violence."

The child's father, Ruben Carthy, aged 24, now of Duke

Street, Basford, Nottingham, who admitted assault and cruelty, was jailed for 18 months.

The jury was told that the child was beaten with a piece of wood and flogged with a belt. He died from massive internal bleeding and had seven broken ribs, a ruptured liver, and a severed abdominal vein as well as cuts and bruises.

Dr Matthew Lavelle said he had visited the child 10 days before his death and found scars on his back, and swelling to the chest. Although Ricketts admitted she had previously hit the child, he diagnosed a respiratory infection and prescribed penicillin.

Christmas guide to health

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

The festive season is the most stressful time of the year for many people and can be a health hazard, specialists said yesterday. But a merry Christmas can lessen the risks of heart attacks and lead to a happier new year, they added.

Relaxing and having fun with family and friends reduces stress, lowers blood pressure and promotes a sense of well-being, Miss Anne Dillon, director of the Coronary Prevention Group, said.

Laughter and singing also reduce tension and bring down stress hormone levels, a suspected link with heart disease, Dr Malcolm Carruthers, president of the Society for Psychosomatic Research, said.

"Christmas, with the pressures of shopping, potential family frictions and possible financial difficulties, can be the worst time of the year for many people and is a mixed blessing for many others," Miss Dillon said.

Too much eating and drinking could be hazardous to health, but over-indulgence at Christmas was harmless if people generally had a balanced diet and returned to it. "The promotion of good health doesn't mean you have to stop enjoying yourself, but care is necessary, particularly with regard to alcohol."

Dr Carruthers said: "Having a good time is more beneficial to positive health than worrying about the effects of a Christmas binge."

"Unwinding, enjoying yourself and letting go of tensions helps to cleanse the body of toxic fats caused by the body's response to stress."

"All your health wants for Christmas is for you to keep warm, eat, drink and be merry, but especially be merry."

● In a Christmas gift to researchers, the British Heart Foundation announced yesterday grants totalling £746,000, bringing the cash awarded for research this year to £2,847,714.

Tougher prostitution laws proposed

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Tougher laws to control organized prostitution in place of common law offences of plying, keeping a brothel or disorderly house are called for in a report published yesterday.

The Criminal Law Revision Committee says the law is inadequate because it penalizes men in a wider range of circumstances than women and fails to "identify what ought to be the main thrust of the criminal law."

The committee, chaired by Lord Justice Lawton, calls for new offences to cover both male and female prostitution of for gain, organizing prostitution, directing or controlling a prostitute's activities or assisting someone to meet a prostitute for the purposes of prostitution.

The maximum penalties would be seven years, six months and three months.

The most serious offence would apply to such activities as when a man controlled prostitution in an area and extracting payment by threats of violence or bribery.

There could also be less blatant forms of the offence, for example, by bogus escort agencies and clubs. They would be covered by the lesser offence of controlling or directing prostitutes for gain. That would also cover a single ponce sending out a prostitute on the streets.

The committee recommends the term brothel be abolished and replaced by "premises used for prostitution."

The common law offence of keeping a brothel should be replaced by new summary offences relating to the use of premises for prostitution, with a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment or an exceptionally high maximum fine of £10,000.

A new offence, with the maximum penalty, is proposed in place of keeping sado-masochistic services.

The committee proposes the retention of existing offences of procurement.

Criminal Law Revision Committee: 17th report, *Prostitution: off-street activities* (Stationers Office, £3.90).

Actress gets £10,000 for 'vulgar attack' by critic

The actress Charlotte Cornwell was awarded £10,000 damages in the High Court yesterday over a television critic's description of her as an ugly, middle-aged rock star whose "bum is too big".

The jury of 11 men and one woman decided that Miss Cornwell, aged 36, of Morlake, south-west London, had been libelled in what she claimed was a "vulgar, vindictive personal attack".

The damages award, with costs, was against the *Sunday People* and the critic, Miss Nina Myskow, whose "wally of the week" article about the actress was published four years ago, after she appeared in the leading

Double your pleasure

Double your fun this week with The Spectator 80 page holiday issue. It's packed from cover to cover with the best Christmas reading.

Take the wonderful story by Alice Thomas Ellis in which a weary housewife, exhausted from all the Christmas shopping, visits her local church for a rest.

There, lo and behold, the statue of a saint speaks to her, and they decide to change places.

What happens next is deliciously unexpected.

There's fun in the 'Imperative Cooking' column as Digby Anderson suggests how husbands can help their busy wives this Christmas - they must prepare a breakfast surprise.

After 36 hours in the bathroom testing the skins for leaks, they should emerge tired but triumphant with a string of homemade sausages.

An article by psychiatrists Ian Deary and Simon Wessely continues

the entertainment. Their research has shown that Mrs Thatcher has made such an impact on the nation's consciousness that mental patients who can't recall their own identity remember the name of the Prime Minister.

The last public figure to have such an effect on the demented was Winston Churchill.

Ferdinand Mount dons the mantle of Charles Dickens and tells the 'Tale of Two Inner Cities'. And Auberon Waugh attacks Liberation Theology for what he considers to be its spiritual sell-out.

To whet your appetite further, there's an article by Colin Welch on Hans Christian Andersen, an 80th birthday tribute to Anthony Powell, a special Christmas quiz and lots more.

There are no half measures in The Spectator's Christmas fare. For a mere £1.50.

THE SPECTATOR

Losing battle for fantasy toy

By Robin Young

What many little boys want for Christmas this year and cannot have is an articulated truck called Optimus Prime. Optimus is the largest, strongest and wisest of the Autobots, leader in the struggle against the evil Decepticons, and apparently unbeatable in toy shops, even at a price of well over £20.

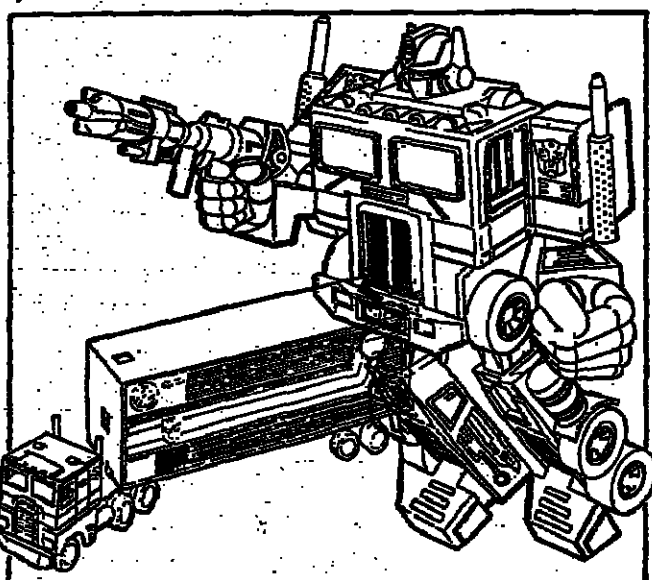
"I do not believe that any such thing as Optimus Prime exists in this country at present," a spokesman for Hamley's, the toy shop in central London, said yesterday. The shop has been swamped with demands for Optimus and the other plastic participants in what Hasbro, the manufacturer, call the Battle of the Transformers.

Hasbro, whose toys are made in Japan, agrees that it has been overwhelmed by demand for its toys. The range is called Transformers because by manipulation it alters shape to form science fiction warriors.

Optimus Prime's cab transforms into an Autobot warrior, and the trailer opens into Autobot headquarters, complete with mechanical arms and a scout car for missions.

"We have shipped five times as much product as last year," Mr Frank Martin, Hasbro's group marketing director, said "but demand has far exceeded all forecasts, and I am afraid some people are going to be disappointed."

At Harvey Johns in Camden Town, north London, demand for Optimus Prime was so heavy that the staff decided to hold a ballot to purchasers. The lists were overwhelmed



The Optimus Prime transformer toy which has created a difficulty for stores.

by 10 times, and the shop has no hope of obtaining further supplies.

Hasbro insists that supplies are still going out. It has continued to advertise on children's television, to the frustration of toyshop owners who have to explain to parents why demands cannot be met.

Transformers, a registered trade mark, does not have the fantasy toy market to itself. Its rivals are Robo Machine toys, many of which appear in the TV-animated cartoon, *Challenge of the Gobots*.

The Gobot equivalent of Optimus Prime is Leader One, an F-15 Eagle aircraft which

rebuilds into a robot. His principal enemy is Cy-Kill, a motor-cycle that transmogrifies as a mobile monster. The Robo Machine Gobots are made by Bandai, the Japanese firm.

Staff at toyshops say the craze for transformer fantasy toys is dependent largely on heavy marketing through television cartoon programmes and television advertising.

There are also transformer toys for girls. The leading range is called Sweets Secrets and has such items as a jewel box which transforms into a doll's house, and a jewel which opens to form a brush and comb set.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 18 1985

Rates support grant

Tories worried

EEC step forward

Rates grant settlement irks shire county MPs

ENGLISH RATES

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, gave local authorities an important message when he made a statement to the Commons on rate support grant for the next financial year.

For all but a handful of authorities the third more spending will result in less grant and less spending will result in more grant.

He was, he said, changing the grant system so that the impact on the rates of every extra pound an authority spent or saved would be much sharper than before. The aim was still to bring local authority current spending down to a level the economy could afford.

As for the 12 rate-capped authorities the rates under their new limits would be lower than they would have been without capping.

Mr Baker explained that the main feature of the settlement was the abolition of expenditure targets and the associated grant penalties. This decision had been warmly welcomed by the great majority of local authorities. It was a major simplification of the grant system.

Although we have a system which gives low spenders a fair share of grants, the system of maintaining strong pressure, even on them, not to take advantage of the abolition of targets to increase spending in real terms.

The aggregate of Exchequer grant will be the same cash sum - £11,764 million - as the figure originally provided for this year. But it is about £400 million more than the amount of grant now being paid for this year, because local authorities are forfeiting £400 million through holdback.

The grant which central government will pay to local government next year will be about 46.5 per cent, which is about the same as the figure for this year after allowing for holdback.

Provisional local authority current expenditure has been set at £22.25 billion. This figure takes no account of the additional provision of £1,250 million over four years which has been offered in satisfaction of a grant agreement reached on school teachers' duties and salary structure.

The Secretary of State for Education and Science has already indicated that, subject to the passage of the Education (Amendment) Bill, he is ready to bring forward £37 million from that sum in 1986-87 in order to secure the supervision of schools at midday.

I announced provisional grant-related expenditure assessments, GREAs, on October 28. These incorporated savings already made in adjustments. The cities will benefit from changes in the concessionary fares and social work GREAs. The remote shires will gain from changes in the education GREAs.

I have considered carefully the many representations made to me since that announcement, but have decided that my original proposals should stand. Individual authorities' GREAs will however differ somewhat from the figures issued in October as a result of more up to date information.

As in past years, the pressure will become more severe if the authority's expenditure exceeds a threshold set at an average of 10 per cent above GREAs.

As usual, there are arrangements to limit the impact of distributional changes on individual authorities' grant entitlements. I have, too, ensured that the changes to the system required by the abolition of the Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils are broadly neutral in their overall effect. If successor authorities carry out their inherited tasks efficiently, their ratepayers will benefit.

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of millions of pounds. They will have a good cause to thank us again in 1986-87.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, and the Secretary of State for Transport are to make separate announcements about precept limitations for the new joint authorities in the metropolitan areas and London.

If local authorities budget sensibly and economically, the average rate increase next year, and it could be lower. Higher spending will mean sharply higher rates. That is why local government must stand up to the pressure of ratepayers, and must implement the many savings identified by the Audit Commission.

My proposals for 1986-87 represent a major advance. I have established a clearer relationship between what councils get and what they spend. And I have built on the success of rate limitation in 1984-85.

Dr John Cunniff, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said he was pleased that the difference between this settlement and what the local authorities were used to making the earnings of community services is a shortfall of £1.25 billion.

We cannot accept that the total level of grant should be reduced to less than 47 per cent of local authorities' current expenditure from the level of almost 62 per cent inherited by this Government in 1979. This reduction, in the seventh successive year, has meant the loss, in accumulated terms, to local authorities of over £16 billion.

Has he not just announced that once again local authorities are to be penalised for spending in excess of GREAs? If more spending means less grant, how can he be claiming to have abolished targets and penalties?

We note the increased expenditure levels given to the seven councils applying for re-determination under the Rates Act, and in so far as it is a reduction in real terms, but even they fall short of what those seven authorities believe they need.

Is this statement not inevitably going to lead to higher rate levels even if the provision of services can be maintained? Are his words about rate levels not meaningless when set beside what his predecessor (Mr Patrick Jenkin) said at this time last year when rates have risen in the last year by more than twice the level of inflation on average?

There is nothing in this statement at all which addresses the problems of our inner city communities. For that reason, above all else, it should be condemned.

Mr Baker The provision which central Government will be making

available to local government is about 46.5 per cent and, in cash terms, it is the same as this year. The effect of this settlement is to increase grants for the towns and cities by £227 million. That takes into account the extra cost of providing social services and concessionary fares.

Once again, Labour is the party of high levels of public spending. They would give in to every single demand for more spending from town halls. If I had given into the town halls, it would have meant either higher rates or higher taxes.

The thrust of this settlement is that if authorities can make economies and savings, then rates will come down. It is really up to the councils to find the savings.

The Audit Commission has pointed the way. It has shown that they could save £150 million a year through vehicle fleet maintenance; £50 million a year through the cleaning of secondary schools; £200 million a year through more efficient purchasing; and £30 million a year through more economical refuse collection.

When such savings are possible, ratepayers are right to be fed up if the local council will not make those savings.

Mr Francis Pym (South East Cambridgeshire, C) will make sure that the allocation to local government is not reduced to less than 47 per cent of local authorities' current expenditure from the level of almost 62 per cent inherited by this Government in 1979. This reduction, in the seventh successive year, has meant the loss, in accumulated terms, to local authorities of over £16 billion.

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agree that money had been taken away from the cities. Southwark received a grant of £45 million this year and would receive between £60 and £65 million next year. As a result of the changes there would be a flow to towns and cities of about £227 million.

Mr Alan Roberts (Bosham, Lab) said that the settlement was a major advance. It was a clearer relationship between what councils get and what they spend. And I have built on the success of rate limitation in 1984-85.

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the system just as he has in himself as Secretary of State.

Mr Baker: After Christmas I intend to introduce a Green Paper for consultation. We will have to hear the views of the country apart from himself - on the reform of the rates.

Devon this year gets a grant of £148 million. If we had kept to the existing system, they would have got a grant of £142 million. Next year they would stand either to get a grant of £152 million or £151 million or £150 million, so Devon is likely to end up with a larger grant. Mid Devon District Council, under the new system, is likely to end up with higher grant than this year.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) The extra help for inland counties is a matter of great regret that Treasury parsimony has not allowed the counties to receive as much as they should have done.

Mr Baker: Withshire will get this year a grant of £94 million. If we had kept to the old system they would have got £79 million. Under the new system, they can either get £114 million or £113 million.

Mr Alan Roberts (Bosham, Lab) This is a major attack on ratepayers, especially the owner-occupier.

Mr Baker said if the grants were to come from the taxpayer, he had allowed for an increase of 4.3 per cent in the £40 million of grants that authorities wanted £125 million, which would have meant a massive increase in taxation or rates.

Mr Patrick Cornsack (South Staffordshire, C) Gobbledygook and incomprehensibility are rarely the hallmarks of good government. This is a case in point.

Mr Baker said the whole question of rate support grant was Byzantine in its complexity. It might have been better to issue a Green Paper on the subject.

Mr Terence Dicks (Hayes and Harlington, C) said that the cut in grant to Hillingdon Council was disgusting.

Mr Baker said he much regretted that Hillingdon was likely to get less grant next year but it could make reductions in expenditure.

Norman Adkins (Totterham, Lab) Why is it that for the economy to receive a 'dustbin' through the rates and every county to buy one over the counter at a profit?

Mr Baker: Well, to the extent that I understand the question, authorities which have privatized refuse collection have always made savings.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C) There is a widespread feeling of betrayal in the shire counties at the announcement.

Mr Baker: My judgement was that it was right and appropriate to recognize the higher cost arising in the towns and cities.

issue unlike Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) and others who seem to act in the House of Commons as representatives of the South African Government. It is only when sanctions are applied by this country and our partners in the EEC that the South African authorities will really realize we are being serious in opposing their vile system.

Mr Rinkfield: He ought to realize people can honestly hold different opinions from his own without justifying his rather nasty comments.

There is a common desire to see peaceful, fundamental change. Sir Peter Baker (Blackpool South, C) If there is any chance of achieving a solution in South Africa which is fair to all the races there which does not involve immense bloodshed, it is by encouraging dialogue between the people of South Africa.

It is not self-evident that economic sanctions are likely to achieve that purpose. Mr Rinkfield: Not only is it not self-evident but we know from previous experience that when mandatory sanctions have been applied it has failed to achieve even limited success.

Mr David Wintick (Walsall North, Lab): Many MPs speak out on this

Care needed to put obligations on firms

EEC TALKS

Decisions about the working environment which affected small and medium-sized firms, at least, should be the subject of unanimous decisions in the EEC, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons. He was replying during exchanges following his report of proceedings at this week's Council of Foreign Ministers.

In his statement, Sir Geoffrey Howe had said that the changes agreed at the council represented worthwhile improvements in the operation of the Community. The agreements to complete the common market by 1992, to speed up decision-making in structural cooperation in foreign policy and to ensure that efforts in research and development were geared to the exploitation of a growing market, would help to create jobs and wealth which had been consistently pursued. It was welcomed as a useful step forward for the Community.

Mr George Robertson (Hamilton, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that, concerned with all the failures and rhetoric, what had emerged was a feeble pile of paper. It was historic in the time taken to do so little for so many European people.

With 15 million people out of work, and the social and regional funds locked up, the treaty seemed more like a dead letter.

Why is the British Government (he asked) alone among all the nations in the Community sticking out against efforts to improve standards of health and safety?

Mr Baker: Why does the Government stick out? Why does this country always take the worst of the Community and reject the best?

Mr Peter Tapsell (Lindsey, East, C) If Sir Skinner is right, and I have no information on the subject myself, he is raising a serious point. We really cannot have British politicians worried by financial problems of foreign political parties.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Now Mr Tapsell has thrown his weight behind Mr Skinner's point, I really shall have to give it more serious consideration.

Education 'should be available throughout life'

HOUSE OF LORDS

Interest in village colleges and community education, which had waned in the 1970s, was growing again because of the increase in the number of adults in the population, Lord Stewart of Fulham (Lab) said in opening a debate in the House of Lords on community education.

The Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Rev Cecil Ruxton, said the teaching of people to act together, the forming of groups and the fostering of leadership were intensely important, particularly in some inner city areas where there was a reluctance to take responsibility outside the family.

Lord Ardwick (Lab) said he sometimes wondered whether the success of the radio soap opera *The Archers* was due to an almost universal desire to live in a community which was well-knit as *Ambridge* appeared to be.

The East of Scotland, for the Government, said it was right that the initiative should come at local rather than national level. The Government would continue to respond in a helpful spirit.

The Government should take an interest in the village colleges and the community education movement (he said) because it does not take a great degree of interest at the moment.

The Government should remember that the school system is declining there would be something to spare

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced in a statement that the Government had proposed to give direct grants of £7.4 million to Caledonian MacBrayne and £1 million to the Orkney Islands Shipping Company to help them to meet the costs of the Scottish Islands in 1986-87.

He proposed to continue the present level of rebates on fares and charges for P & O and the various bulk shippers with whom he had undertakings and would make provisions for grants of £3.8 million to P & O and £1.4 million to bulk shippers. Total revenue support next year would amount to £13.6 million.

He could not unreasonably impose himself upon a committee. It was because of that gloss which should properly be put upon the need to know that it was indicated that it was important in this case to assess from the legal point of view the propriety of the purpose for which the information was being used.

On that point Mr Chadwick had a need to know and was entitled to the information which he was seeking. Mr Chadwick would not accept Mr Chadwick's grounds of reasonableness (1948) 1 KB 223 that the committee was not entitled to or did not properly come to a different conclusion. Mr Chadwick succeeded in doing that.

In coming to the conclusion that he did not need to know the committee was influenced by the confidential nature of the policy making deliberations which were taking place. That was a consideration which should not have been taken into account.

Furthermore, on the basis that the subcommittee was exercising its proper role, the committee and the council could not reasonably take the view that he did not have a need to know.

In so far as attendance at the meetings was concerned, if that was a convenient method of any councillor obtaining information, again in the absence of any special circumstances, of confidentiality, there would in the ordinary way be no rational basis for refusing attendance.

The fact that the information was refused and attendance was not permitted, confirmed the danger that could follow from allowing a subcommittee to be used as the forum of a particular party group.

Solicitors: Bates Wells & Braithwaite, Mr D. Maloney, Accrington.

Correction

In *Layton v Marsh* (The Times, December 11) Lawrence Gopson was named as a London agent for Elton Stokes, Chairman, and did not have conduct of the case.

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Government grant for road improvements

TRANSPORT

Local highway authorities are to get a transport supplementary grant in 1986-87 of £164 million - half of the £328 million they estimate they will spend on roads categorized as of more than local importance.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announcing the grant in a Commons statement, said that in deciding distribution of the grant among the 108 authorities eligible, he had considered the transport policies and programmes submitted in the studies for 1985/86 as well as they related to road which carried heavy through traffic.

The amount of expenditure accepted for TSG is not intended to cover the whole of each council's capital expenditure on roads. Within the resources available to them councils should be able to undertake some £200 million of additional works.

I have therefore (he said) looked for road schemes which benefit longer distance traffic, which take heavy loads away from places where people live and shop, and which provide good value for money.

This settlement supports 310 major road schemes of which 151 are bypasses on the primary route

network; 63 are bypasses and relief roads on other routes - many of these are in urban areas where authorities still face severe traffic problems, and where the costs and difficulties of road building are daunting, but the benefits considerable.

The settlement recognizes the value of local road investment in our cities as much as between cities.

African welcome determination of the metropolitan district councils to press on with the programmes they will take over next April and the readiness of London boroughs to bring forward schemes which have not flourished under the GLC.

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Settlement reflects strategy

WELSH RATES

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, in a Commons statement on the Welsh Rates Bill, said his strategy reflected the commendable performance of Welsh local authorities in reducing their expenditure.

The total of relevant expenditure provision accepted for grants is £1,597.1 million of £0.9 million on the provisional figure announced in July allows for a reduction reflecting the fall in interest rates.

The total comprises £1,568.1 million for current expenditure and £229 million for non-current items. Current expenditure provision - after taking into account the higher level of direct funding in the further education sector by the Manpower Services Commission - is £51 million or 3.8 per cent more than the expenditure under the current authorities' budgets in 1985-86, while the total of relevant expenditure is about £75 million or 4.9 per cent more than the comparable budgeted total for the present year.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Building Societies Bill, second reading, Lords (11): Atomic Energy Authority Bill, third reading, Northern Ireland (Loans) Bill, second reading.

ANC must renounce violence

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, maintained that the Government would only talk to the African National Congress if it renounced its policy of violence.

Mr Deane Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Members of the State Department are in continual contact with members of the ANC and there were such contacts during the recent visit of Mr Chester Crocker (Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, State Department) to Lusaka.

Why does Mr Rifkind refuse to allow the Foreign Office the same freedom as the American Secretary of State in dealing with the ANC? Mr Rifkind said the Government had always stated it would have talks if the ANC renounced its policy of violence.

Later, Mr Rifkind said many who called for economic sanctions emphasized their view that it would be worth making a short sacrifice for a year or so to achieve an end to apartheid by 1985 after 15 years it was not economic sanctions which brought change in that country.

Mr David Wintick (Walsall North, Lab): Many MPs speak out on this

know if the United States had any direct conversation with the ANC.

Mr Rifkind: I have no reason to believe that the United States has any contact with the ANC.

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granting of the remedy of *certiorari* was discretionary and it ought not to be granted for such a bare technicality as that.

Parliament was the notice under section 4(1) and the order under section 4(4) were both nullities in that, before serving the one or making the other, any of the authorities had acted contrary to law as to the jurisdiction of what he was doing.

The position of the secretary of state had been a discretion whether or not to designate a particular authority for rate-capping for a particular year, but when he had designated an authority under section 2(1) the remaining steps of the procedure laid down by the 1984 Act were obligatory.

It was argued that the secretary of state misdirected himself and erred in law when he came to serve the purported notice on Greenwich under section 4(1) and to make the order against Greenwich under section 4(4), because he failed to consider that he had a discretion as to whether or not to proceed to consider at each step whether or not it was appropriate to proceed further with the rate-capping process against Greenwich.

It was consequently submitted that the purported notice and the order were nullities which ought to be quashed *ex debito iustitiae*.

Their Lordships found that argument wholly unavailing. The secretary of state had a continuing power throughout to designate or not to designate an authority for rate-capping of Greenwich. If he had done so, it would not have made the slightest difference, on the facts of the present case.

For these reasons, the court would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Mr A. A. Child, Woolwich; Treasury Solicitor.

Regina v Sheffield City Council, Ex parte Chadwick

[Judgment delivered December 17]

The use of a special subcommittee composed entirely of members of the ruling Labour group for purely political purposes could not justify the activities of the subcommittee in what was before it and in particular what options it canvassed.

It was clear that for reasons which the council considered were good reasons the budget subcommittee was being used as the forum in which the majority group on the council, the Labour group, worked out with the assistance of officials of the council the financial policy which they intended to present to the meetings of the council and the budget subcommittee of the council so that that committee could in turn make recommendations to the council.

That activity would inevitably be highly sensitive and it would be impossible if a member of the subcommittee was entitled to have detailed information as to what was discussed at, let alone stand, the meeting.

Furthermore, although Mr Chadwick was unhappy about the subcommittee conducting its business in that manner, it was clear that the council had endorsed the budget subcommittee being used for that purpose.

In those circumstances the court could not see how it could be said that the council was acting unlawfully or if it resulted in a member of the council being deprived of his or her rights, which were needed to enable the councillor to perform his duties as a member of the council.

Having regard to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the policy committee was entitled to delegate to a budget subcommittee, and the members of that subcommittee were members of the majority group.

Mr Chadwick was refused entry to the subcommittee meetings and on February 26 the policy committee passed a resolution confirming the action taken in refusing him access to the meeting.

He had never been provided with any information as to the verbal and written reports which were submitted to the budget subcommittee and he had been prevented from finding out for himself what was discussed at such meetings because he was not allowed to attend. Particular matters which he identified which he needed to know were the options which were considered by the subcommittee.

He accepted, as was in fact the case, that the subcommittee did not itself decide on any budget proposals but only made recommendations to the policy committee which that committee and the council endorsed. However,

he contended that it was quite impossible for him to evaluate the recommendations of the subcommittee if he was deprived of the activities of the subcommittee in what was before it and in particular what options it canvassed.

It was clear that for reasons which the council considered were good reasons the budget subcommittee was being used as the forum in which the majority group on the council, the Labour group, worked out with the assistance of officials of the council the financial policy which they intended to present to the meetings of the council and the budget subcommittee of the council so that that committee could in turn make recommendations to the council.

That activity would inevitably be highly sensitive and it would be impossible if a member of the subcommittee was entitled to have detailed information as to what was discussed at, let alone stand, the meeting.

Furthermore, although Mr Chadwick was unhappy about the subcommittee conducting its business in that manner, it was clear that the council had endorsed the budget subcommittee being used for that purpose.

In those circumstances the court could not see how it could be said that the council was acting unlawfully or if it resulted in a member of the council being deprived of his or her rights, which were needed to enable the councillor to perform his duties as a member of the council.

Having regard to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the policy committee was entitled to delegate to a budget subcommittee, and the members of that subcommittee were members of the majority group.

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he contended

NUT claims 17% pay rise next year or £1,700 extra for all teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A pay claim of 17 per cent, or £1,700 for all teachers, was announced yesterday by the National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' union, as its demand for next year.

The union is to seek approval from its 216,000 members for industrial action in support of the claim for 1986, although the present dispute was still unsettled after 10 months.

A motion to be put to a special conference of the union on January 18 calls for a new salary structure with:

- A starting salary of £8,000, rising through 10 annual increments to £16,500.
- Allowances for extra responsibilities, giving a maximum salary for a classroom teacher of £19,900.
- Heads and deputies to be on the same scale, with salaries rising to £31,500.

PhD blacklist reprieve

Five of the 14 academic institutions blacklisted by the Economic and Social Research Council because their students took too long to complete doctorates have been removed from the list.

King's College, London, Leeds Polytechnic, London University Institute of Education, the University College of Wales, Swansea, and Uni-

The flat-rate claim of 17 per cent, or £1,700, is made up of two strands: 8 per cent or £800 is claimed for keeping pace with the underlying increase in the average earnings index, and the rest gives an element of restoration to the decline in teachers' earnings since 1974.

Mr Douglas McAvey, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers said the union was claiming about one-third of what was needed to restore Houghton levels of pay.

The union remains adamantly opposed to any link between negotiations on salaries and on conditions of service. The motion to be put to members exhorts them to continue their campaign of action, including work-to-rule and strikes, pending a settlement of the 1985 claim.

versity of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology will be eligible for funds from the ESRC next year for research studentship.

The five institutions have produced written evidence that the statistics which showed PhDs within four years were inaccurate, because of candidacies withdrawing or being ill, failure to notify the ESRC.

Warning of danger for winter sun seekers

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Winter sunshine can make British holidaymakers more vulnerable to skin infections, researchers said yesterday.

The sun's rays not only produce tanning but also depress the body's immune system and may cause outbreaks of recurrences of cold sores, they said.

Studies by researchers at Edinburgh University have shown that some people are vulnerable both to new infections and latent conditions after a few days of being exposed to ultra-violet light.

Dr Sarah Howe, an immunologist, and Dr Mary Norval, a virologist, have been studying latent skin infections, which tend to remain indefinitely in the body, with the symptoms reappearing periodically.

The researchers found that sunlight transiently depresses the immune system, and can activate common viral skin infections such as herpes simplex and papilloma, which produces warts.

"Sunshine is not an unmitigated benefit to health and people should take extra care on winter holidays," Dr Howe said.

Even brief exposure to the sun can be hazardous, Dr Norval said. "We already know that excessive and continuous exposure to ultra-violet light seems to be a factor in causing skin cancers



Stephen Thurnham, aged 10, who is blind and physically and mentally handicapped, being led up the stairs by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, past portraits of former Prime Ministers, when he visited 10 Downing Street yesterday. Stephen is the adopted son of Mr Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP

for Bolton North East and his wife Sarah (third left). They saw Stephen when he was featured in a Child of the Month advertisement, placed by the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, which aims to find adoptive parents for children.

Princess meets Children of Courage

Joanne Baron, aged 11, who ignored severe burns to lead a pensioner to safety through the Bradford football fire disaster, was rewarded for her bravery yesterday.

Joanne, of Denbrook Walk, Bradford, was among 10 youngsters presented with Children of Courage awards by the Princess of Wales.

The others included a boy who telephoned the police in spite of being confronted by armed raiders, another who rescued his friend from an electrified railway line, and a girl who pushed away a live hand grenade just before it exploded.

The presentations, after a carol service at Westminster Abbey, were in recognition of "the kind of personal endurance, bravery or conduct which has been an example and inspiration to others".

Celebrities attending the awards, which were sponsored by *Roman's Own*, included: Anthony Andrews, Peter Bowles, Michael Crawford, Tony Hart, Lenny Henry, Rod Hull and Emu, Rula Lenska, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Mary Parkinson, Michael Parkinson, Su Pollard, Claire Rayner, Mike Read, Shakin' Stevens, Denis Waterman and Ernie Wise.

Afterwards the children were entertained to a Christmas lunch at the House of Lords.

Joanne Baron was paying her first visit to a football match last May when fire broke out in the Bradford stand.

Poorest families 'will not benefit'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The poorest families with children, the group who at present suffer most hardship in the supplementary benefit system, will be no better off under the Government's social security reforms, the Policy Studies Institute said yesterday.

Mr Richard Berthoud, a social security expert at the institute who carried out a two-year study of supplementary benefit commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security in the run-up to the reviews, said the Government's White Paper contains several claims that the new family premium will provide a higher regular income for families with children on income support.

"In practice, however, the loss of extra money from single payments will mean that they will be no better off at all."

Illustrative figures in the White Paper show that long-term unemployed families with children will on average be £1.40 a week better off under the new system, in spite of the loss of extra weekly payments for heating and possibly some other items.

But such families are also by far the largest group claiming single payments for items such as furniture, bedding and cooking. Such payments in future will cease to be grants and will become discretionary loans, repayable out of weekly benefit.

"Our figures show the average family received the equivalent of £3.20 a week in single payments, and while that ranges from those who received a lot, it is clear that an extra £1.40 a week is not going to solve the problems of couples with children on supplementary benefit. It is not going to make them any better off at all."

"Our research and that of others shows that this is the group that suffers most hard-

ship in the supplementary benefit system."

The reforms, however, were relatively generous to families in low-paid work, he said, with the White Paper estimating that an additional 200,000 families will be helped by the new Family Credit. That is double the number helped by Family Income Supplement, the benefit that is being replaced.

But figures in the White Paper suggest that while more families will be helped because assistance is going higher up the income scale, the take-up of the benefit will improve only marginally. At present, only 50 per cent of those entitled to FIS claim it. The assumption in the White Paper is that the figure will rise to only 60 per cent under Family Credit.

Miss Ruth Lister, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "Norman Fowler himself has said the success of Family Credit will depend on take up. Even if the 60 per cent figure is realistic, and we do not believe it is, that hardly amounts to a successful scheme."

"It is remarkable that in a White Paper that places income-related benefits at the centre of its strategy there is no discussion of how to improve take-up when that is the key problem with means-tested benefits."

● Transcription errors led to mistakes in yesterday's table on the poverty trap effects of the social security reforms. The table should have read:

Poverty trap effects of social security reforms		
	Numbers affected	Now system
Loss for extra	Present system	
More than £1	70,000	0
More than 50p	130,000	40,000
More than 20p	240,000	400,000
More than 10p	240,000	490,000

*Figures are cumulative and should not be added up.

EEC backs high-speed computer

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

A supercomputer which will combine the computing power of 1,300 microcomputers is to be built by a consortium of French and British experts. The three-year project which will cost £6.5 million has been given approval by the EEC from which will come half of the programme's funding. The remainder will be supplied by the participants.

The first pilot supercomputer will be available for testing within 18 months and be able to tackle complex problems at a fraction of the speed that is achieved by conventional computers. It is expected to be built for a twentieth of the cost of high-speed computers. The most powerful computer in the world is made by Cray in the United States and costs about £10 million. The Anglo-French designers are confident that they can build the equivalent for about £500,000.

The Royal Signals and Radar Establishment is the prime contractor. They will be joined by three other British groups, Immos, the microchip manufacturer, Thoma EMI and Southampton University. The French partners are Teumat SA, Apsis and Laboratoire de Genie Informatique of the University of Grenoble.

The supercomputer may be used for image synthesis

Bovril wins libel case over sugar

Bovril won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over an allegation that the paste in its product contained sugar.

The drink was included in a list of savoury foods containing sugar which the book *The Food Scandal* claimed was harmful.

The manufacturers' counsel, Mr Desmond Browne, told Mr Justice Davies it was "quite untrue" to say Bovril paste contained sugar, or to suggest it was in breach of the Food Labelling Regulations 1980 by not disclosing sugar in the list of contents.

He said the book, by Caroline Walker and Geoffrey Cannon and published in June last year, said that while consumers sought to avoid sugar processors were putting it back into their food.

Suicide verdict on Reger inquest

Mr Peter Reger, aged 44, the estranged husband of Mrs Janet Reger, the lingerie designer, took seven times the usual dose of sleeping tablets before falling down the stairs at his flat in Cadogan Gardens, Kensington, west London, an inquest at Westminster was told yesterday.

Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. The inquest was told that Mr Reger had barbiturate residue equivalent to 28 sleeping tablets in his stomach.

Before you put a phone on your Christmas shopping list, may we make a few suggestions of our own?

Before you rush out and buy anyone a phone this Christmas, there are a few points you may wish to mull over.

For a start, all modern phones (apart from cellular radio phones) can only be used with the new type of 'plug in' sockets.

If you, or anyone you were thinking of buying a phone for, still has any of the old-style connections, it will cost at least £28 to get the conversion done. Only then would they be able to use the new phone.

Secondly, even if you are certain that the recipient has the right type of connections in their house, there is the question of the phone itself.

You will probably see quite a few phones for sale that carry the red 'Prohibited' triangle. While it may not be against the law to buy or sell these non-approved phones, it is a criminal offence to use them.

(That's because non-approved equipment can cause expensive damage not only to your own phone line but also to those of your neighbours.)

Incidentally, there is also no guarantee

they will even work properly.

Even if the phone carries an 'Approved' label, it does not mean it has been manufactured by British Telecom.

(The green circle simply means it has been approved by an independent body called British Approvals Board for Telecommunications.)

To be certain of buying a British Telecom phone, make sure it carries the British Telecom symbol.

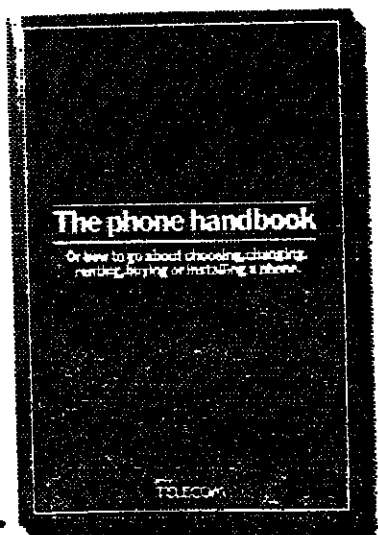
These are just some of the more important points it is worth bearing in mind when buying a phone.

If you'd like more information on choosing, changing or installing a phone, may we suggest you send off for a copy of The Phone Handbook?

All it will cost you is the price of a local call.

Simply ring us on 0345-345 345 and we'll get your Phone Handbook to you as soon as possible.

The Phone Handbook.



British TELECOM

MAYBE WILLIE HAMILTON COULD SEE THE SENSE OF HAVING THIS ROYALTY.

Every year in Britain's homes, millions of hours of music are illegally recorded.

The people who created the music aren't getting a penny for the use of their property.

This is of course, against the current copyright law. Unfortunately this law is totally ignored by the public and impossible to enforce.

A royalty on blank audio tapes would help to finally put an end to this unfair situation.

SDI casts
Berlin advi
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SDI casts a long shadow over Europe

Kremlin adviser's fierce attack signals rift in Soviet-US harmony

The first serious rift in post-Geneva Soviet-American harmony appeared yesterday when a Kremlin chief adviser on East-West relations accused the Reagan Administration of "back-peddling" on the good results of the summit meeting.

Dr. Georgy Arbatov, the man who spearheaded the Soviet public relations drive at Geneva, also accused the US media of disseminating anti-Soviet propaganda with films such as *Kambo* and a planned \$40 million series on the consequences of Soviet occupation of the US. It was "even more dangerous" than spending such a sum on heroin, he charged.

Western diplomats saw the attack, which included a scathing claim that Mr. Reagan's belief in Star Wars was akin to "a religious dream", as evidence of the fragility of the recent move back to détente.

Speaking at a press conference called to review progress a

month after Geneva, Mr. Arbatov singled out Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, for special criticism as a result of "unexpected" remarks made during his recent European tour.

These have caused particular displeasure in the Kremlin because Mr. Shultz is regarded as a main supporter of a return to détente and is compared favourably here with Mr. Casper Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Arbatov referred specifically to remarks made by the US Secretary of State about the post-war partition of Europe and the Helsinki Accords on human rights.

He claimed that the Reagan Administration had come under the influence of right-wing groups "frightened" by the positive outcome at Geneva.

Other Soviet experts at the televised news conference sought to undermine the US Government's arguments in

Gorbachov says longer tests ban up to America

Moscow (AP) — Mr. Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, told the American and Soviet presidents of a Nobel Peace Prize-winning physicians group yesterday that the Kremlin would extend its nuclear tests freeze if the United States reciprocated.

"A unique chance is still there to make the moratorium mutual and to extend it beyond January 1," he said. "To miss this chance, which paves the way to a final ban in a treaty form on all tests of nuclear weapons, would be unreasonable, to say the least."

"A solution to this question is in the hands of the US Government," he said, according to Tass.

Mr. Gorbachov announced in August that Russia would suspend nuclear testing for six months to improve the climate for his Geneva summit with President Reagan and for arms control talks.

Mr. Gorbachov yesterday met Dr. Bernard Lown, an American physician, and Dr. Yevgeny Chazov, a Soviet Deputy Health Minister, co-presidents of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo last week. The organization claims about 140,000 members in 42 countries.

Dr. Lown said that he and Dr. Chazov praised the Soviet leader for his unilateral moratorium and told him that "somebody has to have the courage, the statesmanship" to initiate a permanent test ban.

"He answered that he had done so, and now the ball basically is placed in the American court," Dr. Lown said.

Mr. Gorbachov, according to Tass, told the doctors yesterday that he had told President Reagan that he took the step out of a "sincere desire to break the vicious circle. To our profound regret, the United States has not up to now followed our example."

Dr. Lown said he and Dr. Chazov hoped to arrange a meeting with President Reagan.

Dr. Chazov rejected criticism from several Western governments that it was improper for him to receive the prize because of his close ties with the Kremlin, and because he was one of a group of Soviet scientists who signed a political attack on the dissident, Dr. Andrei Sakharov, in 1973.

Bonn takes the plunge

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

West Germany's commitment is much less than might have been expected early this year.

The reason for the change lies in the internal politics of the coalition.

SDI seem to have become a straight left-versus-right issue, perhaps solely because it was proposed by a right-wing US President.

The main opposition party, the Social Democrats, immediately came out against it. Conservative forces — particularly Herr Franz Josef Strauss's right-wing Christian Social Union — were just as noisily for it. That meant that the Free Democrats, being the centre party, had to find a position in the middle.

Over the months this FDP scepticism has hardened into covert opposition to the principle of SDI. Since both the Foreign Minister, Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, and the Minister of Economics, Herr Martin Bangemann, are going to the US next month, the only direct mention of SDI in the statement referred to the Government as having confirmed the position already taken by Chancellor Kohl. This, it said, was one of "political support for the United States research programme."

It added: "The Federal Government is not striving for any state participation in the SDI research programme. Nor will it make available any public expenditure for projects of co-operation, which expenditure the United States has in any case not asked for."

This means that there is unlikely to be an elaborate agreement similar to that signed by Britain.

assumption that many voters are worried about a project which seems to anger the Soviet Union so much. Since all these views about SDI emerged, Chancellor Kohl, despite his initial enthusiasm, has had to accommodate them.

● MOSCOW Tass yesterday attacked Bonn's decision to negotiate a deal co-operating in SDI research, and said that some circles were trying to push West Germany on a dangerous course (Reuters reports).

In the first Soviet reaction to the West German decision, Tass said: "They (the German Government) hope to bypass existing laws and lay the path for the nuclear arming of the Bundeswehr (army) through the 'cosmic bridge' through SDI, which in Washington, London and Bonn innocently bears the name 'research'."

The agency said the decision was taken in spite of protest from the parliamentary opposition and a large cross-section of the population.

"In short, official Bonn has again demonstrated like a sergeant-major it 'Atlantic solidarity', it said.

Soviet bloc plan to close hi-tech gap

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The 10 member nations of Comecon, the communist trading bloc led by the Soviet Union, have signed a 15-year agreement on scientific and technical co-operation designed to help them to bridge the yawning technology gap between East and West by the year 2000.

At the close of an extraordinary meeting here called to speed up the agreement, a senior Soviet official said that the new programme could be compared broadly with the European Eureka scheme, but not with the American Strategic Defence Initiative, as it had no military objectives.

"Four programme is not connected with the arms race, it answers the interests of all mankind," he said in refutation of Western claims that it had military objectives.

Although Cuba, Vietnam and Mongolia are part of Comecon, in addition to Russia's East European allies, it is understood that the bulk of the new co-operation will be between the Soviet Union and the East Europeans. This will include the establishment of a Moscow-based organization to be called "inter-robot."

One of the main goals of the pact, signed at prime ministerial level, is to boost the efficiency of computer hard and soft-ware available to the Soviet Union and its allies. The Soviet Union alone is committed to increase the output of its computer industry by 80 per cent during the next 12 months.

Uganda fear over peace pact persists

By Richard Dowden and Charles Harrison

Mr. Yoweri Museveni, the leader of the National Resistance Army (NRA), is expected to leave Nairobi soon for western Uganda, where he will explain the new peace agreement, signed on Tuesday, to his fighters before going to Kampala.

NRA sources said yesterday that it was felt it would still be unsafe for him to go to the Ugandan capital until it was demilitarized. Mr. Museveni would probably fly to Rwanda first, cross into western Uganda and meet the guerrillas who now run most of the south and west of the country.

His caution reflects the scepticism many people still feel about the agreement. The power-sharing deal worked out over four months is apparently unclear about how exactly superfluous guns are to be removed on both sides or what is to become of the weapons.

The presence of several senior officers from Idi Amin's Army in the Fairway Hotel of Kampala, paid for by the Government, also gives cause for concern.

However, the Ugandan capital is reported to have had its quietest night for months on Tuesday night. The presence of Cardinal Emmanuel Nsubuga, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kampala, at the welcoming celebration for General Tito Okello, the head of state, will help to improve prospects for peace. The cardinal, an influential figure in Uganda, had refused to appear at any state function until there was peace in the country.

FO tries to placate Hong Kong anger

By Our Foreign Staff

The Foreign Office yesterday tried to cool a row which has developed in Hong Kong after a press conference this week given by Lord Young of Grafton, the Employment Secretary, which led to a walk-out by one of the colony's most prominent China-watchers.

The confrontation erupted after Lord Young, who stopped briefly in Hong Kong after holding highly successful trade talks in China, was caught off guard by a question about the implications of a protectionist Bill which had been before the US Congress.

He further upset Hong Kong journalists by refusing to answer inquiries about the territory's political future and the issue of British National Overseas passports to 200,000 local people when the colony is restored to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Lord Young said this was not his area of responsibility, an explanation which was affirmed by the Foreign Office yesterday.

A spokesman said Britain strongly shared Hong Kong's concern about the growth of protectionism in the US and elsewhere, and had specifically warned the Americans of the damage it could do to Hong Kong. "We are pleased to hear that the Bill has been vetoed."

Known as the "Jenkins Bill", if it had been approved by Congress, it would have imposed strong curbs on Hong Kong's textile exports to the US.

Asked about the Bill shortly after his arrival in the colony, Lord Young seemed puzzled and said: "What is that?" When it was explained to him, he replied: "Let me make this quite clear, I am not going to say a word about the Jenkins Bill. It is not my responsibility."

At this point, Hong Kong correspondent of *The Times* and editor of the *Far East Economic Review*, walked out of the press conference.

Although the dispute may prove only a "storm in a tea cup", as one British official put it, it does illustrate a widely held view among many Hong Kong inhabitants that Britain cares less about their fate than it does about improving relations and trade with China.

Although Lord Young was technically correct in saying that the Jenkins Bill — an issue of great concern in Hong Kong for some time — was not his area of responsibility, the way he handled his press conference would seem to indicate that he had been briefed badly.

Speaking to the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Lord Young combined a bullish account of the British economy, which he maintained was no longer that of the "sick man of Europe", with lavish praise for what he called the "enterprise city" of Hong Kong.

Lord Young, who returned to Britain last night, said the country had enjoyed a level of economic growth in the past few years higher than any other member of the European Community — and higher this year than the US.

Two executed

Peking (AP) — Two farmers were executed in Peking, one for raping a girl of four, the other for murdering a woman with a butcher's knife.

Paris to Cologne. There are also serious differences on issues like Gatt and a new European money system.

Once considered the "motor of Europe", France and Germany even seem to have lost their former harmony of view on the construction of the Community. Paris is increasingly resentful of Bonn's apparent abandonment of Europe in favour of Washington, while Bonn is impatient with the apparent high-handedness in some of France's activities in the diplomatic field.

A strong friendship and common desire to work together remains, however, as was evidenced in the sincere and warm relations between Herr Kohl and Mitterrand on Tuesday night.

The two countries seem incapable of reaching agreement on any joint project, whether it be the Hermes space shuttle, the European fighter aircraft, the military observation satellite, or the construction of the French high-speed TGV train link from



President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan (left) embracing Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on his arrival in Delhi for talks to improve relations between the two countries. They agreed not to attack each other's nuclear plants and to curb cross-border terrorism.

UN troops caught in south Lebanon's bitter crossfire

From Robert Fisk, Haris, south Lebanon

"Be careful — watch out," the Lebanese soldier shouted down from his concrete blockhouse. "The Lahd Army has been shooting at the road again." He need hardly have bothered.

Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia — led by retired Lebanese Brigadier-General Antoine Lahd — had already frightened civilians off the broken little road between Sididne and Haris.

The SLA's shooting has grown so indiscriminate in the neighbouring village of Yater that the Lebanese troops walk beside local farmers, holding huge blue UN flags to dissuade the SLA from firing at villagers as they plough their fields.

In the eyes of the Shia population on the edge of Israel's buffer zone, the SLA — and their Israeli "advisers" — have one intention: to depopulate the nearest villages and to endanger UN troops so that the nine countries contributing soldiers to the United Nations Army in southern Lebanon simply withdraw their men.

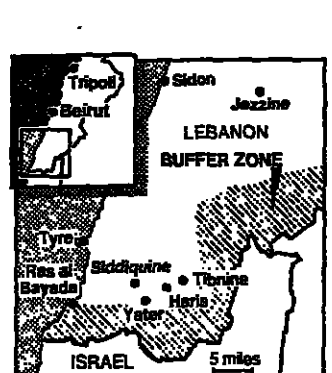
One UN officer in Qana said yesterday that villagers in the edge of the buffer zone were being abducted by SLA men and interrogated at prisons in Khiam and Bent Jhal by the Israeli-paid and Israeli-armed militia.

In an unusually pessimistic report to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, spoke gloomily of the prospects of a UN withdrawal from Lebanon as the international army finds itself wedged between Israeli troops and their Lebanese militias, and anti-Israeli guerrillas of the Shia Amal movement. A 50-mile journey across the south of the country yesterday proved that Señor Pérez de Cuellar's assessment was only too accurate.

Scarcely had my car reached the one-street village of Haris —

in the Irish Army's zone — when a young, bearded man with a black scarf round his neck, stepped into the road and ordered myself and a photographer colleague from *The New York Times* to hand over our identity papers.

Other young men, one of them with a bulky holdall which presumably concealed a weapon, appeared in the road and we were ordered to drive to the headquarters of the Amal militia in the village of Deir Nahr. When we refused, the man with the scarf said we had no option. We then asked a passing Irish Army patrol to come to our assistance.



While as many as 20 UN soldiers — including members of a peacekeeping unit gathered in the street, an Irish officer told us that he would escort us under his protection to the Irish battalion headquarters at Tibnine. We demanded that the local Amal leader should come to us in Haris.

After almost an hour of arguments with the Amal men, the leader, calling himself Abu Gharib and sporting a large bushy beard, did indeed turn up, politely explaining that his militia men had been suspicious of our car because we had driven down a road which often

comes under fire from the SLA. Had we come from Israel? he asked.

After we had explained that we had travelled from Beirut, we agreed to let him drive us in his own car to Deir Nahr with a UN vehicle behind. We asked for — and received — apologies from all his men. But in Deir Nahr, over coffee in the Amal office, Abu Gharib treated both us and the UN men to a treatise on the prospective war which would follow a UN withdrawal.

"If the UN go, we will not leave. Forget about car bombs. Every man and child will have a bomb in his pocket. We will fight until the last Lebanese alive in the south of Lebanon. We will drive every Israeli and very Lahd man out of here."

There seemed little doubt that he meant it, as the UN itself is well aware. It is the guerrilla movement north of the Israeli buffer zone which is regularly attacking the SLA south of UN lines; their car bombs have passed through UN checkpoints. While UN officers believe that the Israelis want them to leave, they also deeply consider the compromises they have to make with Amal.

At several of the UN checkpoints through which we drove yesterday, bearded Amal members, sometimes wearing black berets, stood a few feet from UN soldiers. Beside one Ghazian battle-blockhouse, it was Amal itself which checked civilian cars in the street outside, beside posters of Ayatollah Khomeini and Lebanese guerrilla killed during the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. The UN was making no effort to prevent this.

As the UN soldier in Qana admitted: "Our problem at the moment is with the SLA — but we know what will happen with Amal if we leave. This place be a bloody mess."

Prisoners capture guards in jail riot

McAlester (Reuters)

Heavily-armed police surrounded Oklahoma's maximum security prison where seven guards, including a woman, were held hostage by more than 70 rioting inmates who seized two wings of the building.

Three other guards, stabbed and beaten in the riot sparked by overcrowding and complaints about poor food, were released.

The prisoners telephoned a radio station inviting four reporters in for a news conference but it was feared they too would become hostages.

Three guards were killed at the jail, known as "Big Mac" in a 1973 riot.

Lecturer jailed for 15 years

Paris — Mr Francis Edgar Bowden, aged 57, a former British university lecturer, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Dijon Criminal Court yesterday and fined 60 million francs (£5.5 million) for carrying illegally 2,575 lb of cannabis resin through France in his car on a trip in November 1984 (Diana Geddes writes).

Mr Bowden had claimed that the drugs were put there without his knowledge during a trip to Nepal. The judges went beyond the penalty of 14 years' imprisonment recommended by the public prosecutor.

Lesbos shaken

Lesbos (Reuters) — An earthquake struck the coast of the eastern Greek island of Lesbos yesterday, damaging houses. A spokeswoman for Athens observatory said it measured 5.1 on the Richter scale.

Eiffel Bill

Paris (Reuters) — Rights of landlords and tenants are protected in a new version of a Bill put forward by the French Government to permit transmitters for a new television network on the Eiffel Tower. The Constitutional Council had rejected the first draft.

Graves robbed

Trieste (AP) — Thieves have stolen gold teeth from bodies in at 20 coffins over the last seven months at the Saint Anna cemetery in this north-eastern Italian city. It meant digging down 15ft in places.

Lawyers quit

Paris — Thirteen of the 21 members of the *Marseilles* Bar Association have resigned in protest against the decision of their president, Maître Raoul Léger, to run as a candidate for the extreme-right National Front party in the forthcoming general election.

Activists held

Warsaw (Reuters) — Police detained two prominent activists of the banned Solidarity trade union, Henryk Wujec and Jacek Szymanski, after searching their homes, opposition sources said. There was no official comment.

Mice one

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — Hundreds of field mice are committing suicide by jumping from cliffs on the Golan Heights in what Israeli scientists say is the rodents' instinctive way of solving an over-population problem. The remains of 150 mice were counted at the bottom of one cliff.

Kohl and Mitterrand paper over cracks

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The meeting here between Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand on Tuesday night — their twelfth in as many months — has done nothing to solve the numerous differences which have grown up between France and West Germany in the past year, despite attempts by the two leaders to put on a good show by talking of a "relaunch" of military co-operation.

At an impromptu press conference after dinner at the Elysee palace, President Mitterrand spoke of the "reactivation" of the relevant clause in the 1963 Franco-German treaty, calling for co-operation in the military field. He and Chancellor Kohl had decided to give "a

new impetus" to that clause by increasing the exchange of military personnel, the number of joint exercises and discussions on security matters.

To underline the importance of their discussions in this field, the military leaders of the two countries, General Jean Sauter and General Wolfgang Altenburg, were invited to attend the summit for the first time. In a more dramatic symbolic gesture, Herr Kohl will review French troops based in Baden-Baden with Mitterrand on January 16.

But the reactivation of the 1963 treaty clause is nothing new. It began two years ago, and although nothing spectacular has emerged, both sides are convinced that the regular exchange of views and military

personnel at a high level have been very useful, as have the increasing number of joint exercises.

Bilateral military co-operation evidently seemed to be about the only positive thing the two leaders could talk about. In almost every other field, some difficulty seems to have emerged, not least the newly announced German support for the American Strategic Defence Initiative, which France is strongly opposed.

The two countries seem incapable of reaching agreement on any joint project, whether it be the Hermes space shuttle, the European fighter aircraft, the military observation satellite, or the construction of the French high-speed TGV train link from

Paris to Cologne. There are also serious differences on issues like Gatt and a new European money system.

Once considered the "motor of Europe", France and Germany even seem to have lost their former harmony of view on the construction of the Community. Paris is increasingly resentful of Bonn's apparent abandonment of Europe in favour of Washington, while Bonn is impatient with the apparent high-handedness in some of France's activities in the diplomatic field.

A strong friendship and common desire to work together remains, however, as was evidenced in the sincere and warm relations between Herr Kohl and Mitterrand on Tuesday night.

Nine-point answer to debt crisis

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo

Ministers from 11 Latin American nations have issued a nine-point "emergency proposal" for dealing with the region's \$360 billion (£240 million) foreign debt crisis that calls for a massive increase in net lending by commercial banks and multilateral lending institutions over the next three years.

The proposals, contained in the most coherent and cohesive report yet of the Cartagena group of Latin American debt nations, were described yesterday by the Uruguayan Foreign Minister, Señor Enrique Iglesias, as "an addition to, not a rejection of" the rescue plan proposed by the US Treasury Secretary, Mr. James Baker, earlier this year, which calls for billions of dollars in additional lending.

The declaration, issued on Tuesday night after two days of intensive meetings of the foreign and economics ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Uruguay, describes the so-called "Baker Plan" as "a positive step", but says that the amount of new loans it contemplates are "totally insufficient" to allow Latin American economies both to meet interest payments due on the Latin American debt and at the same time promote economic growth.

The nine points of the emergency proposal include a call for the immediate reduction of international interest rates,

Ivory Coast and Israel renew ties

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Israel and Ivory Coast will re-establish diplomatic relations broken off in 1973, it was announced yesterday after Mr. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, met President Houphouët-Boigny at the President's residence here.

This brings to eight the number of African countries with diplomatic links with Israel, the other being Egypt, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zaire, Liberia and, of course, South Africa. Israel has "interest offices" in several more.

Mr. Peres said diplomatic relations with two further African states "are expected in the very near future". Whether the same could be said for Spain "depends very much on Spain", he said.

On the question of the Sam 2 Missiles moved in by the Syrians closer to the Israeli frontier, he said it was advisable to avoid waging war by rhetoric.

Setback in Assam gives Gandhi party a bad day

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

It was a bad day yesterday for the Congress (I) Party of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, as counting proceeded in the Assam state elections and in parliamentary and state assembly by-elections around the country.

In Assam the newly formed Asom Gana Parishad (Assam People's Council) won about half of the seats declared. The support of the Plains Tribal Council, whose candidates were given a free run in three seats by the AGP, will probably enable the new party to form a government, if it should fail to gain an overall majority.

Other minor parties opposing Congress also won, including that of the veteran former chief minister, Mr. Sarat Chandra Sarma, who leads the Congress (S) party in the state.

With the results in from 54 of the 125 seats contested, the AGP had won 30. Congress (I) could muster only 10 victories, which included the Chief Minister, Mr. Hiteswar Siakia, who had a tough fight at Nazira, near the Nagaland border. None of the AGP members

has any administrative experience. The party was formed only weeks ago to provide a political vehicle for student leaders of the anti-foreigner agitation which has caused so much trouble in Assam in the past six years.

The violence surrounding the agitation came to a head three years ago, during the last state elections, when up to 7,000 people died.

Since Mr. Gandhi's coming to power he has made an agreement with the leaders of the agitation, which has won them much credit. At the same time the agreement has disturbed profoundly the Muslim minority, and it too has founded a party, the United Minorities Front, which took many traditional Congress (I) voters.

In elections to the national Parliament, the AGP was also apparently well ahead of Congress. No results had been declared last night, but the AGP was reported leading in seven of the 14 contested, Congress (I) led in three, and the Plains Tribal Council, the UMF, Congress (S) and an independent in one seat each.

UN adopts firm line on hostages

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Trinidad and Tobago, is the strongest action taken by the council to combat terrorism. The purpose of the resolution is to lay the groundwork for forthright condemnation of any future acts of hostage-taking.

It marked the first time that the council was able to achieve complete consensus on an issue that has eluded agreement

because of the political implications of hostage-taking. Although the Soviet Union did not act as a co-sponsor of the resolution, it was understood to have supported the measure.

Diplomats said that the next time an abduction takes place, countries involved will be able more readily to seek recourse in the council.

Australia tries to save drug smugglers from gallows as appeal fails

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

Two Australians convicted of smuggling heroin face the gallows in Penang jail after the failure of their appeal against the death penalty.

The Supreme Court of Malaysia yesterday dismissed appeals from Kevin Barlow, a welder from Perth, and Brian Chambers, a building contractor from Sydney. Both are aged 28.

Barlow, who was born in Britain and emigrated to Australia when he was 12, has dual Australian-British citizenship.

The two men are due to be executed in a matter of weeks, and the prospect of the sentence being carried out drew a swift and strong reaction last night from the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Bill Hayden.

He said he would seek clemency from the Malaysian Government "on humanitarian grounds" now that all legal avenues had been exhausted.

Mr Hayden said: "I have always been, and remain, firmly opposed to capital punishment. Accordingly, I will be pressing the presentation of this appeal for clemency with a great sense of urgency."

There was no justification for taking away life as a punishment, no matter how serious the offence, the Australian Labour Government said.

Mr Hayden's comments reflect the Government's anxiety, but sources close to the Australian public opinion suggest that there will be no

dramatic outcry if the two men are executed.

"What would you choose?" one Australian source said. "These people want clemency but they - and the big men behind them - are making a lot of money smuggling hard drugs into Australia to corrupt our kids. How can we complain about the justice that Malaysia is meting out to them?"

Opinion has shifted sharply in Australia, particularly among the middle class, whose children are thought to be more at risk. Opinion polls favour punishment according to the harsh laws of the countries in which they operate.

Barlow and Chambers have a last recourse to the State Pardon Board of Penang, where they were arrested in November 1983, with 180 grammes of heroin. They might then appeal to the King of Malaysia.

Under Malaysian law, the courts were compelled to invoke the death sentence because the two were caught with very much more than the legal limit required for the mandatory death penalty.

In the Supreme Court yesterday the judges brushed aside arguments that the judge who convicted them on July 26 had erred in drawing damning inferences from circumstantial evidence about the bag in which the drugs were found.

At their trial, the two men blamed each other for possession of the heroin.

Malaysia has hanged 32 drug traffickers in the past 10 years, including many from South-East Asia, but the two Australians would be the first white men to face execution.

British press: Mrs Christine Austin, Barlow's aunt, said yesterday that appeals for clemency will go to Mrs Margaret Thatcher and to the Foreign Office (that Press Association reports).

"We hope that Mrs Thatcher and the Foreign Office will now intervene," said Mrs Austin, aged 35, of Brighton Street, Penkhill, Stoke-on-Trent.

"We had already written to Mrs Thatcher and we got a reply that she was looking into it. It is good news that the Australian Government are acting, but I think the British Government should do something, too. We shall be writing to Mrs Thatcher and the Foreign Office again."

A spokesman at 10 Downing Street said the family had been told that the matter was in the hands of the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office said: "Because Kevin Barlow is of dual nationality, and the other man is an Australian, the Australians are taking the lead in looking after his interests. We are naturally keeping in touch."

JAKARTA: Police in Bali are holding a Briton with 26lb of hashish hidden inside stone carvings and a concrete table top, according to reports reaching here (AFP reports).



Kevin Barlow (left) and Brian Chambers leave the Malaysian Supreme Court in Kuala Lumpur after hearing their appeals against the death sentence for drug trafficking had been rejected. They were arrested in November 1983 and sentenced to death last July.

Indonesia finds Timor a thorn in improving Canberra links

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra

The Australian visit by Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, appears to have achieved its purpose of putting sensitive relations between the two nations on a new footing. But enough thorny issues remain to test the commitment of both sides to a real improvement.

Dr Mochtar flew to Melbourne yesterday, on his way home, where he met demonstrators protesting at Indonesia's human rights record, specifically in East Timor.

Earlier in the visit he faced another demonstration in Canberra, and was sent an open letter from 24 federal Labor Parliamentarians urging the Indonesian Government to "right a basic wrong" - the annexation of East Timor.

The letter, mainly from members of the Labor left, also urged Indonesia to open the former Portuguese territory to proper scrutiny and resume an internationally supervised dialogue involving East Timor guerrillas of the Fretilin movement.

Though East Timor still is an issue for many Australians, in part because it underpins a widespread perception that Indonesia is expansionist in design, it no longer looms as large as in the past. At a news conference on Tuesday Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, said that potential problems on the question had been "managed quite successfully".

The fact that Dr Mochtar's visit was his first to Australia since 1978 is an indication of the way in which relations have been allowed to slide. But Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, clearly signed Canberra's desire for an improvement in August when he formally acknowledged for the first time his Government's de jure recognition of Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor.

After his talks with Mr Hawke, Mr Mochtar said both countries believed they should emphasize in future similarities rather than differences. Matters on which they were in broad agreement were economics, Cambodia, a nuclear-free environment and North-South dialogue.

The main areas for potential irritation in the future are continuing negotiations to develop jointly an oil-rich seabed subject to a boundary dispute, and Irian Jaya.

This easternmost territory of the Indonesian archipelago is a principal focus of Jakarta's huge transmigration programme, to move hundreds of thousands of people from the overcrowded island of Java.

The programme has caused about 10,000 Irians to cross into neighbouring Papua New Guinea claiming refugee status. A few have also made their way to Australian territory, raising concern in Canberra of a wave of "canoe people" reaching the northern coast.

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Fishing agreement Britain accepts EEC cuts in quotas as best deal possible

From Richard Owen, Brussels

British officials yesterday put a brave face on an end-of-year EEC Fisheries agreement which cuts British quotas of cod and mackerel, saying that the deal was the best that could be obtained.

Final agreement on the cuts in fish catches is being delayed by Ireland, which blocked the package reached early yesterday after two days of talks by fishery ministers. But the Irish are expected to give way when ministers meet again tomorrow.

The agreement is based on assessments by EEC scientists of the threat to endangered fish species, including cod. Britain's cod quota goes down by 17 per cent from the 1985 catch of 128,240 metric tonnes. Of this, the British catch in the North Sea is reduced to 75,790 tonnes.

The British mackerel catch falls from 220,330 tonnes in 1985 to 195,000 next year. Neither figure is quite as low as feared, but both are still difficult for British fishermen to accept.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said he took some pride in the fact that quotas had been agreed before the end of the year. This was in the interests of fishermen, who now were able to plan for the future.

Mr John Gummer, his deputy, said it was "the best deal possible". Mr Will Hay, of the Scottish Fisheries Federation, said he had hoped for a higher cod quota but added: "We will have to live with it."

The council agreed on a small rise in herring quotas, which is some comfort to Britain's fishing industry. Denmark had pushed for a rise from 10 to 18 per cent of the total whitefish catch in the North Sea - that is, fish other than trout - but was held to 10 per cent, a result hailed by Mr Jopling as a victory.

But British fishermen are angry about the European Commission's agreement with Norway, a non-EEC member, giving it 40 per cent of North Sea herring stocks. Mr Gummer said for Britain to try to overturn this would mean unravelling the Common Fisheries Policy at a very late stage.

The EEC is anxious to set the seal on 1986 fisheries policy, which involves control of access to member states' waters as well as catch limits, before Spain and Portugal join the Community on January 1. Spain has one of the world's biggest fishing fleets, and it will instantly double the number of fishermen in the EEC.

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Zimbabwe agrees to army meeting with Pretoria

From Jan Raath, Harare

Zimbabwe has accepted a request from South Africa for a meeting between senior regional commanders of their two armies to try to reduce the threat of violence on their common border.

The agreement follows an urgent plea to Harare delivered on Monday after a landmine the day before had killed five whites and seriously injured five more, 18 miles west of the South African town of Messina and close to the Limpopo river which forms the border.

Mr Waldemar Kuhn, head of the South African trade mission here, said yesterday he had received the agreement yesterday and the issue was now in the hands of the respective military authorities. He had been told by the Zimbabweans that "the appropriate people have been given instructions".

The meeting would be "within the next couple of days", Mr Kuhn said, but he was unable to say where it would be held.

JOHANNESBURG: Zimbabwe has reconfirmed that (it) will not use force for the planning or execution of acts of violence against any of its neighbours, including South Africa, according to a statement issued by Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the

South African Foreign Minister (Michael Hornsby writes).

The banned African National Congress has claimed responsibility for planting the landmine, but denies that its guerrillas entered from Zimbabwe, as Pretoria maintains. They were operating from within South Africa, the ANC contends.

South Africa's government-controlled radio yesterday broadcast an obviously official inspired suggestion that foreign diplomats here "who so readily attended the recent mass funeral in Mamelodi" should "now consider travelling to the funerals of the latest labour victims".

About a dozen diplomats attended the funeral at the beginning of December for blacks shot dead by police on November 21 in Mamelodi, near Pretoria. A British Embassy official said yesterday it sent representatives to the funeral because many embassy staff had friends and employees living in Mamelodi.

A wealthy white sugar farmer was shot dead on Tuesday night when he went to investigate a failure of his electric power plant. A police spokesman said that speculation that the farmer had been killed by insurgents was premature.

White Timman. Black Kasparov. Roy Lopez

In a valiant display of aggressive chess, the world No 3 grandmaster, Jan Timman, has struck back to take the third game of his six-round challenge in Hilversum, Holland, with the world champion, Gary Kasparov.

Play followed the pattern of the first in the series until Timman launched an improvement on the 23rd move. This was not totally successful, as Kasparov could have gained

some advantage with 31... Q-K2.

But Kasparov's overambitious 31st move allowed a brilliant and surprising knight sacrifice by Timman.

Onlookers in Hilversum, where crowds number up to 2,000, are delighted with the violent nature of the struggle in all three games so far, none of which has been drawn. The score is now 2-1 in Kasparov's favour and play resumes today.

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Guatemala leader impresses

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Señor Marco Vinicio Cerezo, Guatemala's President-elect, left a deep and positive impression on Capitol Hill in a heavy round of diplomatic meetings this week, ensuring that extensive aid is available if he asks for it.

But he is anxious not to be seen as too close to the United States: even if the US offered immediate aid to the security forces, he would ask for it to be delayed.

And he made no formal request for economic assistance, which this year is a paltry \$80 million (\$56 million). "The real challenge is not to have the best Army in Central America, but the best democracy,"

The US Vice President, Mr George Bush, offered unspecified US help in Guatemala's move towards democracy. But the Reagan Administration is not entirely comfortable with Señor Cerezo, who has been highly critical of US policies towards Central America and styles himself a "moderate leftist".

This week he refused steadfastly to criticize the left-wing Government of Nicaragua, with which he held recent talks in Managua. Nor would he praise Washington's support for the anti-Sandinista guerrillas.

Señor Cerezo, the first civilian president in 31 years, is spending the weeks before he assumes the presidency on January 14 in touring capitals in Central America, South America and Europe, to press his idea of a Central American parliament for regional discussion. He feared "falling into the hands of the East-West conflict", which would lead to the "Lebanonization" of the area.

Señor Rodolfo Paz, his designated economics minister, said in Washington that neither last reform nor a widely expected tax on unused land was planned. The first goal was political stability.

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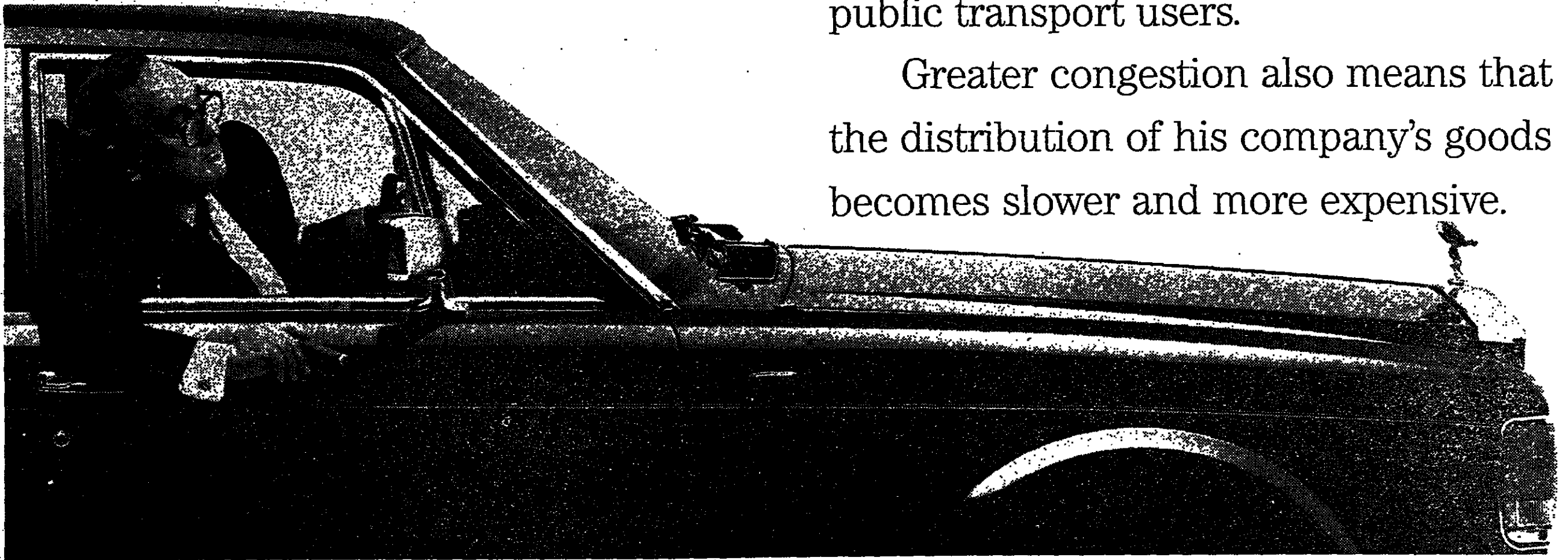
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BOOKS

Peremptory Muse of the lost girl

One of the surprises, at least to me, in this life of Stevie Smith, is the self-assurance with which she wrote her own blurbs. They are very good blurbs, they sum up her achievement nicely and admirably for the right things. She also ruthlessly rewrote interviews she had given. This implies anxiety and self-confidence in equal portions. She liked to be in control of her relations with the world; she read and chanted and sang (off-pitch) her poems which she further interpreted or commented on with her naive and disturbing drawings.

In 1962 one of these blurbs claimed she was "unlike any other poet writing today. There may be echoes in her work of past poets... but these are seen as deceitful echoes, as her thoughts may also seem deceitful, at first simple, almost childlike, then cutting at depth with a sharp edge to the main business of her life - death, loneliness, God and the Devil." Her metric, she added, was "very subtle".

One of the rewritten interviews characterized this firm grasping at the presentation of her poetry as that of "an adult - tyrannized by the omnipotent child." Stevie Smith wrote a poem "To carry the child into adult life/Is to be handicapped" and a certain childlike-ness, as well as many friends and acquaintances whose impressions are woven into this sharply-defined biography. In *The Wanderer* a pitiful ghost taps on windows crying "You have weaned me too soon, you must nurse me again." This unsatisfied infant greed recurs as a theme, in Stevie Smith, alternating with a deep sense of helplessness, hopelessness, and more or less stoic rejection.

The story of her life is well known. Her father abandoned her, her mother died in her childhood, and she lived all her life in a Victorian house in Palmer's Green, with her redoubtable Aunt, the Lion of Hull. She had a good English school education, from which she derived her hymn rhythms, her knowledge of Romantic Poetry, and her passion for the fateful logic of Racine. She did not go to University. She wrote, the two American authors of *Stevie* tell us, largely in order to find companionship, whilst supporting herself as a secretary to two noble publishers - a calling she disliked so much that she finally slit her wrists in the office and was pensioned off.

It was a very English life, as lived by that generation who, born into Edwardian ideas of leisureliness, decorum, and plenty, were precipitated into not one, but two World Wars. She seems to connect her sky interest in sado-masochism, which surfaces particularly in her anxious and not wholly successful novel of 1983, *Over the Frontier*, with these swings of universal violence and physical danger. During the Second World War she was a close friend of Orwell's, and Barbara and McBrien produce various anecdotes that might be

A. S. Byatt reviews the life and haunting works of the poetess of Palmer's Green

STEVIE
A Biography of
Stevie Smith
By Jack Barbara and
William McBrien
Heinemann, £15

fair tales, souped-up gossip, or just possibly truths, about their love-making in London parks or naked pursuits through the corridors of the BBC.

But her political convictions were instinctively conservative, derived from the Lion of Hull. "Without the middle-classes we should be unbearable," she wrote in *The Holiday*, if "free-blowing revolutionaries and classless artists are the salt of the earth... you cannot make a diet of salt." If she frequented Bohemia, and later read with expansive Sixties poets on international platforms, she wished to belong to Palmer's Green. In 1965 she wrote to the Czech who managed her small investments that she preferred domesticity to writing. "I'd rather do anything than write. I think that women naturally don't want art, because they've got all this wonderful thing going on at home all the time." Other accounts suggest that her domestic life was grim and grey, with stony potatoes and tinned peas.

She haunted her own life like a ghost outside the window pane. All the same I don't think Barbara and McBrien should be angry with Flora Robson for saying after Glenda Jackson had played Stevie: "I understood only too well the wonderful lives of the women of my age." Stevie Smith had chosen to understand and to undergo that, in part.

The dramatic meat of this biography is her friendships.

But now I know that never
Nearer shall I move
Than a friend's friend to friendship
To love than a friend's love.

Her friends seem to have been alternately patient, bewitched, insulted, and outraged. She remorselessly put

them into stories and then wrote stories about this process. "You go into houses and steal away the words that are spoken" one betrayed friend accuses Stevie's fictional alter ego. The infant Jonathan Miller was a victim of a particularly malign portrait - Stevie did not like other precocious children, and tended to behave like a cuckoo, pushing people out of the way of her view of things.

After her aunt's death, she sat in friends' kitchens, complaining that no one had warned her milk. Olivia Manning described her intemperately as

having "the most venomous tongue of any person I have ever known." Rosamond Lehmann suffered for a generous (and just) response to the weakness of *Over the Frontier*, particularly to a criticism of its "little-girlness". There is no account in this whole biography, I think of anyone to whom Stevie Smith was a support, or did a good turn, or offered understanding.

THEY deal very well with her long battle with the Church, her resolute rejection both of its comforts and of its threats of eternal punishment, which she saw as "fairytale" and reduces, in her poems and drawings to something of the same status as the Frog Prince or the Gypsy. "With his own carpentry business up to the age of 30 and the flower-like wandering and teaching which Mr Muggidge so beautifully describes." She was properly ferocious about the non-language of the New English Bible, a work haunted by the ghost of great prose and uneasily aware, not of any modern prose, but of the modern which is the Anglican Church, as its habit, seems to have felt more affection for her than outrage.

She has been compared to Emily Dickinson. Both behaved oddly, put on falsely innocent airs, took control of a very limited life-space and ran it automatically. Both wrote out of the rhythms of the hymnal and made of these new sounds, blasphemous, absurd, terrifying, child. Dickinson was a genius, who went to the heart of her age's loss of faith and wrote it out, with an occasional mad giggle. Stevie Smith did not have this greatness - too much of her oeuvre is whimsical chatter. But she did have an absolutely individual voice and she did look, if not unflinchingly, straight at loneliness and despair.

She said of her heroine in *The Holiday* "In the depth it is very cold, and it is that which is in herself she fears and flees, but cannot flee, except in death. All the love in the world, to such a character, is useless, she cannot respond and must flee." It is that truth that underlies the nervous brightness of all her writing.

*This Englishwoman is so
Nobody heard him
Still he lay moaning
One than you thought
And not waving but drowning*

Dear old W.H.S. is certainly a household name wherever the British sharpen their pencils. (Sniffs, as I remember it from undergraduate days, a reference to its high moral tone). But I doubt if it has quite retained its Victorian status as, in Professor Wilson's phrase, a "national institution", which is the subject of this chronicle.

In that far-off golden age of thundering newspapers, massive circulation libraries, and punctual railway travel, Lord Northcliffe handsomely described Smith's as "great merchants of literature". *The Times* hailed it as "the greatest Newswriter in the World" (a rather jingoistic claim since Smith's foreign presence was largely restricted to a shop in Paris, Brussels, and Toronto). And Henry James pointed out "the fine flare of one of Mr W.H. Smith's bookstalls" - one of over a thousand - in the annual depth of Paddington Station as a noble feature of the London of the 1880s. "It is a focus of warmth and light in the vast smoky cavern; it gives the idea that literature is a thing of splendour, of dazzling essence, of infinite gas-lit red and gold. A glamour hangs over the glittering booth, and a tantalizing air of clever new things."

Well these days Smith's is rather less glamorous, if financially more secure. But such a shift in public esteem is merely part of an overall business history (and not simply a company history) which goes back nearly 200 years. It is the sort of story that Balzac or Galsworthy would have loved: six generations of a metropolitan business family, widely varied in talents and ambition, but all playing their parts in a grand middle-class design. Woven into this family drama,

Life and Fate is the richest and most vivid account to be found of what the Second World War meant to the Soviet Union. Like all Soviet "epics", it is a mosaic - but not a bitty one. Grossman does not, as Ehrenburg did in the thirties, drag in new characters and invent gratuitous episodes because he cannot keep the story going. His characters are all connected, closely or by a long and intricate chain of circumstances, with the central figures, the Shaposhnikovs, we meet husbands, ex-husbands, children, ex-lovers...

...but also the politics and commanders on whom the fate of their kin and friends depends... and the German officers and epauletted torturers who have many of their kin and friends under their paws. The scene shifts, back and forth, rapidly, but never confusingly, from the Stalingrad front to the reserve armies in the rear, to the evacuated in Kuibyshev, to those privileged to return from Kuibyshev to Moscow, to a German POW camp, to a Jewish ghetto, a Jewish column en route from the death camps, to Auschwitz, even, for a brief glimpse, to a frightened Hitler at his field HQ after the Stalingrad reversal.

Places are as solidly realized as people - above all war-shattered Stalingrad (Grossman was there throughout as a war correspondent). I shall never forget this utterly convincing and startlingly vivid picture of the (semi-barbaric) life of soldiers and workers among the

Just who really was William?

Ion Trewin

THE ORIGINALS
Who's Really Who in
Fiction
By William Amos
Cape, £12.95

In *The Originals* William Amos has compiled the most addictive, yet infuriating book, "In five minutes," he writes of its conception, "I jotted down the names of 30 characters and their originals. How many more might I round up. I wondered, if I really applied myself..."

Ten years later he had 3,000, and now - edited, refined, and reduced - he has produced what his subtitle claims, is a "Who's Really Who in Fiction".

Does it matter? If you enjoy Malcolm Bradbury's *The History Man* the knowledge that Howard Kirk might have been inspired by Professor Laurie Taylor adds a frisson of extra pleasure only if you know who Taylor is.

But what if you take only at face value Ronald Duck, the former movie actor and right-wing state governor of Euphoria in David Lodge's *Changing Places*? Does the novel immerse us in not making the obvious link? And yet Amos quotes Lodge's remark, not only that all his characters are figments of the imagination, but also that "it says so in the prefatory note at the beginning of each book, so it must be true."

Amos doesn't seem too concerned at what the reader thinks. He just wants to put the finger on characters in fiction and rip off their masks. His revelations come from many sources, some previously confessed by their perpetrators, some the product of detective work by Amos and biographies he has consulted.

Some, however, are speculation. The fact that A. A. Milne described Owen Seaman, editor of *Punch*, as "a strange, unlikely man" of doubtful disposition "prompts the suspicion" (in Amos's phrase) that here is the model for the Ingubrious Eeyore.

Some are amalgams. Tatiana Larin in *Engage Omega* (supposedly represents "another Amos phrase) three women in Pushkin's life. In this instance Amos is marrying the views of two of Pushkin's biographers, neither of whom were so generous in their identifications. Some are downright circumstantial, such as the original of Henry James's Peter Quint in *The Turn of the Screw* being George Bernard Shaw. Ridiculous? Well... as Amos sees it, not only do the physical descriptions tally, but Shaw had an affair with Annie Besant, Quint an affair with Miss Jessel. And the connection? The judge who deprived Mrs Besant of the custody of her child in 1879 was called Jessel.

As a reference work the next edition of *The Originals* will be enormously improved by information which will, I'm sure,

● *Eight Black Horses*, by Ed McBain (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95). McBain's last couple of 87th Precinct novels showed signs of flab and fatigue. His latest is shorter and sharper, a welcome return to excellence. The Deaf Man, McBain's occasional Master Criminal, bombards the 87th with advance warning of his criminal intentions over the Christmas Season. His presence, as in previous books, provokes engrossing tension.

● *The Face of Death*, by Lesley Grant-Adamson (Faber, £9.95). The central idea is chilling. An amnesiac woman is claimed by a man as his disappeared wife. The gradual disintegration of the facade and the woman's growing realization of the truth are handled with tension and intelligence, but the climax is both too signposted and too uncertain to satisfy. Confirms rather than enhances the promise of her first novel.

● *Head Case*, by Liza Cody (Collins, £7.50). The beguiling Anna Lee, spunky private eye with a scruffy agency, in charge of a brilliant but disturbed 16-year-old linked with an unsolved hotel killing. The usual witty repartee and speedy plot,

Dream of a frightful Christmas in the 87th

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

but a hint of pretentiousness in the psychological unravellings.

● *Burial Deferred*, by Jonathan Ross (Constable, £7.95). Guests behave strangely at seaside resort guest house run by a blind woman, a body is washed up, and the engaging three-dimensional Detective Superintendent Rogers, tetchy, sensitive, and efficient, finds solution and sensuality. Ross has not disappointed yet.

● *Winter's Crimes 17*, edited by George Hardinge (Macmillan, £8.95). Lucky are the publishers who can call on such a superior stable of crime-

writers for an annual short-story stocking-filler. Paula Gosling, Peter Lovesey, Julian Symons, and Miles Tripp in particularly good form.

● *The Fourth Deadly Sin*, by Lawrence Sanders (New English Library, £9.95). Famous shrink wasted, suspects include most of his fruitcake clients and then some. Retired chief cop Edward X. Delaney helps the long (380 page) hunt without boring. First rate procedural with no fills, no sex and real people.

● *Frisco Blues*, by Gordon DeMarco (Pluto Press, £7.50). Socialist private eye Riley Kovacs wisecracks and slugs his way through the shipyards and baseball grounds of 1947. San Francisco to expose racialist killing, and corruption. Precise and convincing depiction of post-war political confusion and civil rights stirrings.

● *The Anvil Agreement*, by Ken Beag (Pluto Press, £7.95). Integrity-filled scientist on the run from wicked Swiss company with miracle but deadly drug.

● *Dead of Winter*, by Forbes Bramble (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95). 'Twas the night before Christmas and the randy Vicar was shot in front of a full house.

SIDGWICK & JACKSON

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A ROBERT HALE



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Sniffs or Smug or Smith of Smiths

Richard Holmes

FIRST WITH THE NEWS
The History of W.H. Smith
1792-1972
By Charles Wilson
Cape, £12.95

we also have a remarkably interesting managerial history, which throws light on some of the most powerful forces in the Victorian commercial world. It embraces a long abrasive series of boardroom struggles with the railway companies, on whom Smith's business depended until 1905; a love-hate relationship with the great newspaper proprietors like the Walters and Harmsworth; and some early adventures in advertising, trade union negotiation, and libel law.

Of course Professor Wilson, one of the editors of the *Cambridge Economic History of Europe*, and author of the classic 3-volume *History of Unilever*, is an expert hand in such a field with a stoutly independent judgement of men and affairs. He can claim, with J. H. Clapham and Asa Briggs, to be one of the creators of this form of business history, where a single company is made to reflect an entire commercial ethos. He seems fascinated

above all by what he once called in an early essay "that indispensable *Ignis fatuus* of economic history, the entrepreneur". To this extent his work is a tract for the times.

It is indeed in skilfully analysing the very varied manifestations of the entrepreneurial spirit at Smith's, that his book is strongest. This is both good business history and good business biography.

Where Professor Wilson is perhaps weaker, and certainly more defensive, is at the other end of the company scale, the shop-floor end. He seems to put forward Smith's as a model employer; though their juniors were not allowed to marry without permission, and female staff were not seriously accepted even in 1914. He describes Smith's as a "paternalistic democracy"; although they would never hear their book-stalls. And he argues that the kind of censorship they operated through their circulating library - together with Mudie's and Boots - was balanced and reasonable. Compton Mackenzie, one of many authors who ran foul of this policy, wrote crisply that "Smith's were projecting their anxiety about money into anxiety about morals." Fair comment, surely.

A general point arises here. Lord Briggs pointed out in his *History of Lewis Stores* (1956) that when the business historian concentrates on the management side of things, he tends to produce conservative economic history; when he concentrates on the staff and the customer, he tends to produce more radical social history. Professor Wilson undoubtedly leans towards the former, and this is a sign of the times. Though I'm not sure what Balzac would have said about it.

Overwhelming images of war

FICTION

H. T. Willetts

LIFE AND FATE
By Vasily Grossman
Translated by Robert Chandler
Collins Harvill, £15

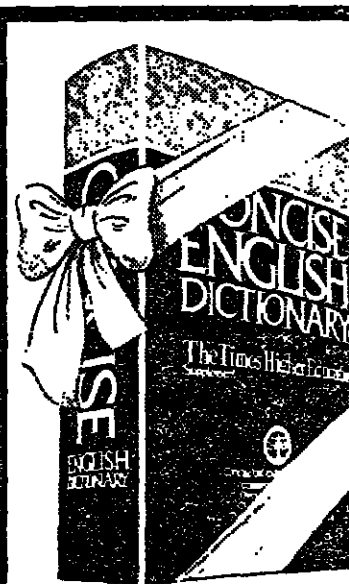
rubble and the wrecked machines. We attend conferences at HQs (even Army HQs, with unloving portrayals of famous generals like Chukov and Eremenko), but military operations are seen mostly at micro-level: from the snipers' outposts, or the forward tanks in the great counterattack - the only vantage points from which the realities of war can be felt. In another extraordinary feat of descriptive writing the construction and equipment of the Shaposhnikovs are described in careful, dispassionate detail, as though what was before us was the building of a canning plant in a very superior Soviet "production novel" of the thirties. The effect is flesh-creeping - and the climax, with the plant in use, and its operatives individualized, is overwhelmingly macabre.

The novel owes much of its tragic power to Grossman's understanding of the ambivalence of patriotism. He sees many resemblances between Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany - and the most fateful was the capture and perversion

of patriotic feeling by unscrupulous politicians. This theme is fascinatingly developed in his account of relations between the real soldiers and the political officers at the front. Here is the supreme irony: the Soviet regime survived because it let patriotism, simple Russian patriotism, have its head - then took control of it, and perverted it to other purposes. No book except *Gulag* has so enlarged my understanding of the way in which the regime distorts ordinary human relations - and the extent to which the regime was produced and is sustained by banal and venal human selfishness and callousness.

A by-product of Stalinist nationalism was the anti-Semitism which received tacit, more explicit official encouragement as the war drew to its end. It is in this context that we see Grossman's greatest triumph over the temptations of his material. The atomic physicist, Shtrum, is almost destroyed by a tidal wave of official anti-Semitism, but plucked to safety by Stalin in person, who knows that atomic physics and anti-Semitism both have their (limited) uses. Grossman handles Shtrum's story with irony and compassion. Nobly, even self-destructively (to his family's exasperation), defiant while he is persecuted, Shtrum, once "vindicated", tries to shut his mind to doubt and enjoy his success.

No more powerful war novel has come from any country for many years past.



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THE TIMES DIARY

Barclay's SDP link

The SDP's official policy is that apartheid is "repugnant" and that Britain should take "positive action" to help destroy it. The party might be interested to hear, therefore, that its economic spokesman, Ian Wrigglesworth, has just become a paid adviser to Barclays, the bank recently dropped by Oxfam "because of the scale of its involvement in South Africa and Namibia". Wrigglesworth denies any conflict of interest. He was himself a banker and Barclays is a big employer in his constituency, he says. The bank reduced holdings in its South African subsidiary to 40 per cent last summer, and its chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, unequivocally condemned apartheid last month. "If I didn't think the board of Barclays took that view, I wouldn't be associated with it," Wrigglesworth says. Oxfam is less charitable. A working party it set up "in view of growing concern within Oxfam over Barclays' role in southern Africa" concluded that "the fundamental cause of poverty among the majority of the population is apartheid".

● You won't see Oxford Street for the queues... for its post-Christmas sale Debenhams is reducing carpets from £9.99 to £9.95 a yard - a whopping half a per cent off.

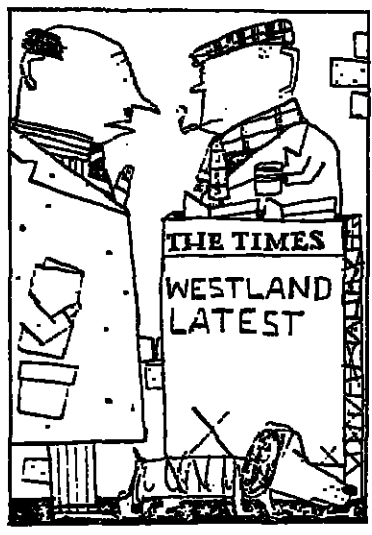
Bushed telegraph

Spare a thought, as you read this, for some 15 Handed telegraphers at the House of Commons. Because their office is seriously understaffed, they are this morning midway through a marathon session of shorthand-taking (often at more than 200 words a minute) that will last for upwards of 35 hours. They came in at 2.30 pm yesterday for the start of normal Commons business, sat through the night covering the end-of-term consolidated fund debate which ends at 9.30 this morning, begin covering standing committees at 10.30, and return to the chamber at 2.30 for a session that is likely to last past midnight. They are, I'm told, far from happy.

United Ireland

The most relieved man in the Commons yesterday? Sir Peter Emery, the Tory MP quietly drafted in by the government to move a motion on Tuesday enabling all 15 Ulster by-elections next month. This unprecedented motion was prepared in secret and sprung on an unsuspecting House - which is just as well. Had a single MP of maverick, republican or proceduralist bent thought to shout "object", Sir Peter would have been obliged to debate 15 separate motions - a process that could have continued ad infinitum.

BARRY FANTONI



"But who's going to sit in and save Michael Heseltine?"

Carry on

Let us hope the high-living Lord Gower doesn't pick up any ideas from the staff at his new workplace, Sotheby's. I am told it's porters have been making unsolicited calls to Bond Street galleries asking for Christmas money. "It's so embarrassing," said one leading dealer. "Three porters came in and handed me a book showing how much other dealers had given. They smirked when I only put in £5. They were like the dustmen." Yesterday Sotheby's said such touting was "extraordinary", and the dealer it could ever happen. The dealers only sign the book to say "thank you", like you would thank the milkman. "Nonsense, said one dealer - "There's only enough space to fill in the cash figures."

Non-persons

Conservative News for Trade Unionists carries a list of suggested Christmas books available from Central Office. It is headed by *Five at No 10: Prime Ministers' Consorts since 1937* - "an investigation into the lives of Lady Dorothy Macmillan, Lady Home, Denis Thatcher etc". The "etc" Mary Wilson and Audrey Callaghan.

Unfair cop

The GLC's excitement on Tuesday night at the vote against a police committee grant of £26,000 to the Cynthia Jarrett Research Project may prove to be short-lived. While members may have thought they were axing the controversial grant to investigate the death that sparked the riot at Broadwater Farm, it turns out they were merely rejecting the committee's proposed conditions to the award. Since Tory and Liberal alternative motions were also defeated in council, the legal opinion is that the police committee's decision stands. PHS

Never so much sold to so few

by Henry Neuberger

As the government's privatization programme comes under increasing attack for its financial absurdity, the government tries to emphasize its alleged role in spreading share ownership more widely.

The latest Treasury *Economic Progress Report* claims that privatization has roughly doubled the number of individual shareholders since 1979. Since we shall no doubt hear ministers repeating this fairly soon, it is as well to be aware that it is only loosely based on fact. The government estimates that in 1978-9 there were about 1,500,000 or 1,750,000 shareholders, and the numbers were falling. Inland Revenue figures show that they continued to decline in the early 1980s.

Since then there has been a growth in employee share ownership. But that change is mostly composed of BT shareholders surveyed last April; a million people who bought BT shares did not own any other shares. Since the number of shareholders in BT fell by half a million in the first six months, claims of increased share ownership may be exaggerated.

But it is not just that there may not be many more people owning shares. Among those who do own shares, the big holdings have become even more concentrated. An analysis of what has happened to shares in privatized companies shows that these companies have concentrated share ownership - in some cases very sharply - soon

after flotation. The concentration of shareholdings into large denominations is also greater in privatized than in conventional companies.

The most striking case is that of ICL, in which the government has sold off its holdings since 1980. The proportion of shares held by the top half per cent of the company's private shareholders has risen from 45 per cent in 1981 to 64 per cent in 1984.

In the case of British Aerospace the number of shareholders fell from 158,000 at the time of the issue to 43,000 in 1984. At the start only one shareholder held more than one million shares. In 1984 that had risen to 17.

In the case of BT the number of shareholders fell in six months - not in a year, as the *Economic Progress Report* says - by 447,000, from 2,139,000 to 1,692,000. That fall took place entirely among shareholders who held 400 shares or less. There are strong incentives both for telephone subscribers and employees to continue to hold shares. When these incentives expire, we can expect to see a further substantial fall.

The Treasury argues that big institutions are reluctant to deal in small quantities of

shares and therefore fail to provide finance for many small companies. That problem certainly exists, but it is not clear that the decline of the private shareholder had much to do with it.

It goes on: "The main disadvantage has been the breaking of direct contact between individuals and industrial companies." Here its case is far weaker. Most of the individual shareholders were very wealthy individuals - never large in number. Either they had substantial connections with an individual company or they were concerned only with the dividend cheques on which they lived.

The one clear area of shareholder growth has been among employees, for whom there are now 1,000 schemes and more. Any increase in the influence that employees can exercise over their companies is to be welcomed: it is not clear that the present employee share ownership schemes achieve that. At most, they provide little more than the illusion of influence.

In practice, the privatization programme has concentrated further the ownership of wealth in this country. The objective of wider share ownership is not the true reason for privatization. The true reasons are a desire to raise money to satisfy the strange accounting needs of a policy based on the public sector borrowing requirement; and a dogmatic hostility to public enterprise.

The author is economics adviser to the leader of the Labour Party.

David Walker on the state governor with a strategy to appeal to an ailing party

Phoenix. Barry - let's lob one into the men's room at the Kremlin - Goldwater seemed for a long time to sum up Arizona politics. Republican, anti-welfare state individualism within a cowboy heritage of shooting first and asking diplomatic questions later.

But they wear three-piece suits in Tucson nowadays and vote Democrat. Out of Arizona a new, more reflective kind of politics is emerging. Bruce Babbitt, governor of the state for two terms, has all but declared his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination for 1988, together with a portfolio of ideas - all the more interesting because of Babbitt's common ground with Goldwater.

In a carefully planned sequence of speeches and articles since the Democrats lost the presidential election in 1984, Babbitt has stitched together a package that emphasizes economic freedom, tough management of the public sector and "states' rights" - a codeword in American history, meaning the right of states to organize their services free of interference from the federal government. Taking a lesson directly from the success of the Reagan presidency, Babbitt hopes to strengthen his appeal with a statement of optimistic faith in America's progress, "our society's belief in itself" as he puts it. Such rhetoric would have fitted easily into a 1964 Goldwater speech.

At this stage in the game, when no candidates for 1988 have yet declared themselves openly, Babbitt is only one of a pack of likely Democratic contenders. These include other state governors such as Mario Cuomo of New York and senators such as Gary Hart of Colorado, an also-ran in 1984's contest. Teddy Kennedy, senator from Massachusetts, has lost many pounds in weight - a sure sign of a presidential run. Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Joseph Biden of Delaware claim to represent a new style of tough-minded politics. But Babbitt, with his own think tank already set up in Washington, is off and running as a new-found "Western Democrat".

Arizona is unquestionably the West, a great open, largely empty state, its population concentrated into a few urban centres where the vital issue is securing adequate water. It is a state where no politician could succeed who supported government control on the sale and possession of guns (Babbitt does not; it is a state where people are easily impatient with the federal government, except when it comes to building dams or sending out pensions to the rapidly increasing number of people who come to retire in year-round sun.

Babbitt and the Democratic Party watched in 1980 and again in 1984 as a western-conservative Republican, Ronald Reagan, stole the nation's heart. They knew that, as governor of California, Reagan had raised taxes and spent large sums to support state spending on education, parks, roads and social welfare, despite his rhetoric. The trick for 1988, it seems, is to combine some kind of western anti-Washington

Go West - the Democrats' rallying cry



appeal to the country at large without threatening the public services provided at state level which are taken for granted, and for which Americans consistently vote Democrat.

Enter Babbitt, a lawyer who once worked as a civil servant in President Lyndon Johnson's great federal programme for alleviating poverty, and who now criticizes its grandiosity. He stands, he says, on his record in Arizona; even that conservative state has endorsed programmes of social welfare and public health, provided they are well-managed. It has been the federal government that has prevented effective management of the schools, according to Babbitt.

What is needed, and what Arizona has got, is better appraisal of teachers, schemes to link their pay to merit and tougher tests for pupils. We have a scheme for vocational training, he says; its effectiveness is regularly measured in terms of the

success its graduates have in finding new jobs. Babbitt has popularized these ideas on public sector management in *The New Republic* and other journals, leading him into public controversy with the teachers' unions, a mainstay of the Democratic Party in the north-east.

There is both risk and opportunity here for a Democratic contender. Walter Mondale, the candidate defeated in 1984, was widely criticized for appearing to know little to the various interest groups that carry weight within the Democratic Party, especially the unions. But these interest groups - the women's caucus, blacks, Hispanics and so on - can turn out voters in Democratic primaries.

Two years ago Babbitt called out the Arizona National Guard to keep open a copper mine in the state where striking miners were picketing. In a national election such action would probably redound to

Babbitt's credit, but within the Democratic Party it may brand him as anti-union. He says stoutly that the Democratic manifesto can never merely be a "wish-list" for the interest groups.

At this stage in the game, Babbitt is trying to establish an image that will distinguish him from rivals. He has been travelling abroad to pick up "credibility" on international issues. His press secretary is collecting a library of tapes of the governor's television performances, to be studied and criticized.

So Babbitt emerges. "The Democrats must have a coherent economic view. The Democrats used to be the party of economic growth. In the 1970s we took up 'industrial policy', a variety of governmental and centralized responses to recession. That was a big mistake, out of character with the American economic tradition."

The party must espouse private enterprise, and a tax system remodelled to encourage savings, investment and the creation of new business and new jobs.

Protectionism is anathema. Government attempts to second-guess the free market never work - look at Europe, Babbitt says.

The welfare state must be reshaped, he believes, its benefits focussed much more clearly on those who need them. This means, for example, means-testing federal pensions which are at present paid out universally.

Babbitt is no backwoodsman. From an old Arizona family, he was educated at Notre Dame, a top Catholic university, and at Harvard Law School. Before turning to law he was a geologist and took an MSc degree at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. His image, genuine enough, is of an environmentally conscious, westerner, a modern Teddy Roosevelt with a visceral feel for the grandeur of the American West; he has written about the Grand Canyon in a way which combines an aesthete's eye with a geologist's factual knowledge.

His foreign policy stance is probably something for the image-makers to grapple with. In keeping with the national mood, he is likely to stake out a firmer position than Gary Hart, the 1984 darling of the "young urban professional" Democrats, with whom he is often compared.

Babbitt's own issue is Mexico, Arizona's next-door neighbour, and the need for a package of trade development measures to promote economic growth and head off a Mexican collapse, the inevitable repercussions it would have on the US.

Babbitt has a year or more to make up his mind in public about running for the nomination in 1988. He may make some terrible blunder or investigative reporters may find something to besmirch his clean-cut family image. Even if this happens, however, there will still be a Babbitt legacy for the Democrats in 1988. The party is desperate for new themes to appeal to the great tracts of America that seem to have forsaken it in presidential elections. It will have to have some sort of "western" strategy, and Arizona is ready to supply it.

Last shudder of the Mafia myth?

New York. An undercover agent who infiltrated the Mafia and won the confidence of leading gangsters reported that they liked nothing better than to curl up and watch video re-runs of *The Godfather* films. It seemed, he said, that they liked to see how they were meant to behave.

One of the mobsters, when visiting his favourite restaurant, used to give the waiter a handful of small change to feed the jukebox for the theme music from *The Godfather* over and over. It was an offer the waiter could not refuse.

In the killing of the most powerful criminal boss in America the Mafia has lived up to all expectations. The audacious ambush outside a restaurant, the trenchcoats and hats of the assassins, the bodies uncovered for the benefit of photographers, the godfather's half-smoked cigar lying on the pavement - they all fitted a well-known tableau.

"Only in New York," said the taxi drivers happily. One of the city's prosecutors said sternly that the murder was an outrage. But New Yorkers seem to feel a certain pride, as if the city had once again lived up to its reputation. "Rubout", proclaimed the tabloid newspapers. New York is nothing if not theatre, and no city, its citizens seem to say,

does this kind of melodrama better. People gathered in knots on East 46th Street to stare at the place where "Big Paul" Castellano and his henchman had fallen. This, they said, would be something they could tell their grandchildren. The regulars at Sparks Steak House grumbled about the notoriety. Castellano was a regular and the owner said he was treated just like any other celebrity. My guide book lists Sparks as an "in" place and remarks on its list of 300 wines and the Italian ice cream. No doubt it will be amended to record the fate of the gangster king, just as the guide books note that Umberto's Clam House in Manhattan was the scene of another famous Mafia rubout in 1972.

It was interesting that the restaurant owner should refer to his late good customer as a celebrity. Mafia bosses and some of their lieutenants have a bizarre sort of star status. Family trees and relationships, the Shakespearean intrigue of underworld princelings, are earnestly discussed in the newspapers. On television, pundits dissect the killing and speculate on its ramifications. The recent natural death of a Mafia underboss prompted a full newspaper obituary.

The Mafia, with all its attendant demology and mythology, is an

enduring thread in American life and culture. For most of this century it has had an extraordinarily easy run because the public tolerated a meshing of crime and politics, particularly in the management of the great cities. City bosses and crime bosses underpinned each other, building their empires with the aid of bribery and patronage, extortion and the threats of violence. For a long time the war on organized crime was conducted fitfully and inefficiently because some policemen, judges and prosecutors were in the pay of criminals. Police forces were weak and crippled by inter-force rivalry.

It is only in the past few years that the authorities have conducted a concerted offensive. Law enforcers are better equipped than they have ever been. There is new legislation aimed at the mobs. Police strike forces co-ordinate attacks and mitigate rivalry between the FBI and local police forces. Modern electronics help to gather evidence.

The result is that the Mafia is undergoing the heaviest assault in its history. Trials under way in New York, and those to come, promise to deal significant blows. The authorities have at last indicted top people as well as smaller fry. It is possible to talk of the beginning of

the end of the Godfather... although that sentiment has been heard before.

The Mafia, too, has moved with the times. It is still heavily involved in prostitution, gambling, drugs and protection rackets. But gangsters have increasingly moved into fraud and the looting of pension funds. It infiltrates unions to milk their funds and puts pressure on business to dictate what goods and services should be used. Violence is always the sanction.

A few years ago a leading chicken producer went to see "Big Paul" Castellano because he was having union problems. When he was asked why he went to him, he said: "Because he's the Godfather."

Extorted money, which has become a hidden tax on construction work and many services, is ploughed into legitimate businesses. Mafia bosses like to adopt a pin-striped and respectable appearance. They are usually described in the newspapers as quiet, family men.

Just under the pinstripe and the sleekness lies a deep layer of viciousness and greed, vengeance and rottenness. Yet the occupants of this violent underworld are permitted to live up to their image of glamour and celebrity.

Trevor Fishlock

Ronald Butt

This Bill's light tax on duty

Moving the second reading of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill in the House of Lords last week, Lord Broxborough correctly observed that the concepts behind it had exercised the minds and fired the imaginations of great men. He then went on to quote Rousseau: "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains."

With due respect to Rousseau, and to an unforgettable slogan, I have never thought that a very illuminating statement. It would be much more accurate, if a good deal less arresting, to say: "Man is born reliant on the duty of others, and on his own strength and will for freedom. Where either is weak he is in trouble."

Today we are obsessed by rights - not only human rights but group rights of every description. Duty is seldom promoted with the same fervour; indeed, it sometimes hardly seems to qualify for honorary mention. Furthermore, it is almost axiomatic in contemporary opinion that rights are best observed by declarations and by then giving these statements the force of law and the backing of a judicial process.

This particular Bill derives from the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Britain adhered in 1952 - a document which reflected postwar aspirations for a world in which the dignity of man and human freedom were acknowledged, and from which the horrors of tyranny were finally banished. The aims were noble but the consequences were highly questionable, not least because there is a potential conflict between the Convention and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, to which British subjects can appeal, and British law, to which they are subject.

It is to resolve this dilemma that Lord Broxborough's Bill has been brought before Parliament. The intention is to resolve the conflict between the claims of British law and those of the Strasbourg court, by writing into British law the broad declarations of rights and freedoms enumerated in the Convention by which Strasbourg operates.

If it were simply a matter of transferring a desirable sort of legal remedy and judicial proceeding to our own courts, that would be an admirable solution. But in fact to do this would bring into English legal practice, for the first time, judgments based on highly generalized slogans, which are interpreted largely in the light of judges' personal opinion. They would no longer be bound to give their judgments in the light of parliamentary statute and precedent in the Common Law which has historically been the basis of our constitution. Parliament and the freedoms it embodies would be demoted.

In the debate on the Bill, Lord Scarman, in support, sought to anticipate and answer the charge that enacting the European Convention in Britain would give judges too much power. "If our judges are not to be trusted," he said, "they are not to be trusted with their present responsibility, which is the enforcement, application and development by judicial decision of the rule of

law." That, I think, is wholly to misinterpret or misunderstand the nature of the misgivings held about the Bill.

It is not a question of mistrusting the judges; it is a question of mistrusting the task laid upon them. In Britain, their duty is clear. It is to interpret statute law, which is intended to be a clear and concrete statement of what Parliament wants for as many particular circumstances as the ingenuity of the draftsman can cover, reinforced by the Common Law. These are strict constraints upon judges.

At Strasbourg, however, judges will have to decide on very broad statements of principle, the application of which in respect of one person's claim may well make a nonsense of that of another. That gives huge and unfettered power, of a kind the judges of the United Kingdom have not hitherto enjoyed.

Where the principles of the Convention deal with simple matters of fact, there may be no problem. The provision that everyone's right to life shall be protected by law, and that nobody should be deprived of life intentionally, save in execution of a sentence following conviction for a crime for which this penalty is provided, is one such case. Another declares that nobody should be subjected to torture. But when the second part of this latter statement goes on to add "or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", one has to add that what constitutes degrading treatment must be a highly subjective opinion.

Likewise the provision that all people of marriageable age have the right to marry (how many spouses at once, and in what circumstances - and what is marriageable age?) could be interpreted very variably. It has already been noted with the article properly respecting respect for family life, to confound Parliament's attempt to prevent the abuse of arranged marriages for the purpose of avoiding immigration law.

Characteristically, it was Lord Denning who made the substantive case against the Bill on the grounds that it would give the courts the power to say that a statute was invalid because it offended against the Convention. The real bastion of our freedoms, would be undermined and the ability of Parliament to legislate as it considered appropriate, in response to public need and grievances, would be flouted.

All this comes from a contemporary obsession with rights which often distorts moral judgement. The demand for women's rights is, for instance, often so concerned with the urge for self-fulfilment that it seems comparatively indifferent to the consequences of this for children. In the demands for women priests it is also possible to perceive, between the lines of some of the over-enthusiastic rhetoric, a concern for self-fulfilment and the demand for a right which leaves insufficient room for other altruistic concerns.

By and large, it is a sensible rule of thumb that, where problems arise from a conflict of rights, the best solution is to meditate on duties.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Sagger-maker's bottom line

The origin of words is a source of perpetual fascination, and we are lucky enough to have secured the services of Professor Ralph Diphthong to answer our queries today on where words came from, what they are doing here today and how they are going to get there tomorrow.

All yours, professor.

My old dad had an expression which used to intrigue me. It was: "You could have knocked me down with the barley end of a dragoon's swoggle. Any idea what it means?" - Mrs Iris Vertical of Penze.

Ralph Diphthong writes: It's a fair bet that your father visited Australia during his youth. Mrs Vertical! In the early days of the colony a dragoon was someone who went round the outback selling groceries and produce to the farmers who couldn't get to town, because there wasn't a town to get to. A swoggle was a large stick, 12 or 15ft high, with a flag on top, which he used to fix to his cart, so that farmers could see him from a distance. Fittingly, each other with a dragoon's swoggle was one of the favourite sports in those more innocent days, and was very popular until it was replaced by cricket.

What about the barley end? - Mrs Vertical again.

Ralph Diphthong: Just coming to that. An early kind of Australian candy was a stick which was flavoured peppermint at one end and barley the other. The barley end of anything was the unpopular end. I heard an American the other day refer to something as "home-dirt". What did he mean by that? - Jack Swinstead of Ealing.

Ralph Diphthong writes: One of the most popular growth industries in America at the moment is spying and the selling of military secrets, and like any industry, it is beginning to develop its own vocabulary. In the old days secrets were sold only to the other side, but these days they are also sold to America's allies - indeed, it is becoming common for the American Navy to buy secrets from the American military and so on. This is called "home-dirt".

Mu uncle, an airline pilot, sometimes refers to putting on the rubbish as "ditching the duty-free". What does this mean? - Miss Lolla Platt of Reading.

Ralph Diphthong: The most combustible part of any airplane is the duty-free trolley, packed with

alcohol, spirit, tobacco, etc. When the plane is in difficulties, the duty-free trolley is always jettisoned first. Near some American airports, I believe, the sight of a duty-free trolley coming down under a parachute is not uncommon. Hence the expression, "It's raining buds and brandy".

Many of the folk songs taught to me by my mother had the chorus: "With a hey nonny no and a fo-de-fo-de-fo." Does this actually mean anything? - Mrs Charmian Binks of Leeds.

Ralph Diphthong writes: It is a diminished version of an old Anglo-Saxon poem about 3,000 lines long dealing with the history of Britain and the impact of Viking thought and culture. It used to be recited in full, which no doubt demanded for the Middle Ages lasted so long, but it later shrank to this one line.

What is a gin and Spanish? - Mr Tom Kelsa of W12.

Ralph Diphthong writes: It is a lethal mixture of half gin, half sherry. It is traditionally drunk at the end of parties, when everyone has gone home and the host needs another drink, but can only find the corks of sherry and a gin bottle he has kept hidden.

An old footballer I knew used to refer to "talking a Wembley earful", but before I could ask him what it meant, he died. Any idea what he was talking about? - Sid Filafax of Devon.

Ralph Diphthong writes: Yes, indeed. Before the Cup Final, it is traditional for a member of the Royal Family to shake hands and chat to the players of both sides. The noise of the Wembley crowd makes it impossible for anyone to hear what the other is saying, so the players always prepare a short speech which they use in answer to whatever the Royal has said. The expression means, to talk a load of nonsense.

Diphthong is a funny name, professor. Did you make it up as a pseudonym for your line of business? - Gerry Calabrese of Dublin.

Ralph Diphthong writes: I think you are making the common mistake of assuming that Diphthong refers to two letters joined. It is in fact an Old English word, meaning, one who dyes leather.

(If you are puzzled by any expression, or would like to make one up and try it on, just drop a line to the Professor.)



P.O. Box 7, 209 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

EASE A TRAGEDY, STOP A SCANDAL

In its last days of its bicentenary year *The Times* has this week received some of the most moving responses that we can ever recall to a series of feature articles. Schizophrenia is a disease that comes and goes without warning. It attacks promising teenagers and those fulfilled in middle-age. To the one per cent of the population who suffer its affliction the disease often denies insight into their own conditions. But to judge from what we have heard and published in the past three days it is almost as if it were the other 99 per cent which lacked the insight into schizophrenia. It has indeed been the forgotten illness.

To put a continuing tragedy to the forefront of our readers' minds is one thing. To suggest how it may be alleviated is much harder. Schizophrenia is on one level simply a disease - with causes that are generally accepted to be biochemical and effects that are as cruelly clear to those close to the sufferer as they are so often consciously concealed from everyone else. But on another level schizophrenia is a dark mystery. Its sufferers are sometimes able to live what we know as normal lives, sometimes violently ill, uncontrollably ill, unrecognisably ill.

The quality of the condition has excited artists and writers who have seen it as a paradigm of the human condition itself. It has also excited intellectuals - most notably R. D. Laing and his followers - who have used it as a stick to beat the western organisation of family life. To those who examine it closely the world of schizophrenia is like a battle-field of fear and elation, of blood and courage and of sometimes warring ideologies each with their own vision of the right on their side.

Behind this fog of confusion it is clear that public policy towards schizophrenia is also in a mess, and it is the very alternation between sickness and health that is at the heart of the problem. Schizophrenia requires two distinct varieties of care: specialised care inside institutions and specialised facilities outside in the community. It needs the consent and understanding of the public both to pay for such care and, when the care takes place in the community, to cooperate in it too.

That consent - never as strong as it should have been - is now under threat from the very execution of policies that were designed to improve it. Schizophrenia - like all forms of mental illness - is less of an utter taboo than it was. The efforts of charities like MIND, the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, the Richmond Fellowship and others, have shifted public perceptions of mental illness. So has the commitment of every government since the early 1960s to community care for the mentally ill, after Enoch Powell as Minister for Health first eloquently condemned Britain's isolated, Victorian lunatic asylums to eventual extinction.

Unnatural allies

But Conservative ministers and organisations like MIND are not natural allies. Despite the apparent similarity of their commitments against institutionalisation and in favour of community care both have forces behind them that would need little encouragement to be at each other's throats. MIND, at its recent conference, passed a resolution that talked of its opposition to "involuntary incarceration" and the use of "brain damaging and addictive drugs", representing as they do in MIND's view "an unacceptable form of institutionalised violence" language that suggests a barely restrained rejection of any state medicine. Behind the Conservative Party there are always supporters who would prefer the State to lock away the mentally ill and throw away the keys.

Public confidence in the policy of running down and

eventually closing Britain's long-stay hospitals and substituting instead care in the community is becoming increasingly fragile. Despite its honest denials, the Government is widely perceived to see community care as a money-saving exercise - a means of closing and selling off long-stay hospitals while providing care on the cheap in the community. The re-emergence on the streets of highly disturbed individuals visibly ill-cared for and incapable of enjoying a decent life not only offends the public's sensibilities, but also its sense of justice.

The message is beginning to come through - even from charities such as the NSF - that while the mentally ill may not be best cared for in hospitals, they are better cared for there than in the absence of facilities outside. The demand to return the mentally ill back to the bins "out of sight, and out of mind" could grow. Such a development would itself be a tragedy. The policy of making care in the community available is the right one. It is the execution which is proving weak.

Care is not cheap

Some of the worst examples do, to be fair, stem from the earlier days of the run down of mental hospitals. Then some health authorities literally dumped ex-patients in bed and breakfast accommodation, sometimes in towns they had left years if not decades before, isolated and unsupported. This was the hospitals' own version of "out-of-sight-and-mind." Today there are plenty of examples of good community care for the mentally ill from hostels and core and cluster housing to day centres, workshops and day hospitals. Yet it is clear that overall the policy is not working properly. The pace of the run-down of mental hospitals is accelerating and it is clearly happening more quickly than the provision of psychiatric support facilities in the community.

The problem is twofold. It is not just what to do with discharged long-stay patients. It is also about the standard of services for those who would have gone into long-stay hospitals but are now in some cases refused admission to keep the run-down on target. Parents and families too often receive little or no support. And the mess that has been made of the plans for regional secure units means that many psychiatric patients are ending up in prison not hospitals.

What therefore is to be done? The first thing is a clear admission from government that care in the community is not a cheap option, but one that is not just to shift the location of care, but to improve it. Mental illness services are chronically underfunded. Although in recent years there have been marked improvements in mental illness spending and staffing, the resources needed to provide decent community care are almost certainly larger than the cost of running the old mental hospitals. They may not be very much larger. What evidence there is, in an area where comparisons are hard and figures unreliable, is that the less dependant mentally-ill patients may well be cheaper to care for in the community, but that heavily dependant chronically-ill patients are appreciably more expensive.

The second is that bridging finance must be provided to ease the transition from hospital to community care. Here imagination as well as hard cash is needed. Despite the fact that the policy of closing mental hospitals is almost a quarter of a century old, not one of the large old hospitals has actually shut down. The harsh economics of running down a mental hospital is that cutting the number of patients by a half cuts the cost of keeping the place open only marginally, and that until it closes the often considerable sums of capital from sale of buildings and land are not realised.

As the hospitals run down

health authorities are faced with trying to run two services at once. In addition, capital is crucial to community care. It is needed to provide the housing association places, day centres, hostels, day hospitals, workshops and all the necessary elements of a proper community programme.

Some regional health authorities have set up bridging funds. But with health authority budgets under pressure the sums are insufficient. At least a three-pronged approach is needed. Some of the long-stay hospitals and their grounds, particularly if planning permission could be attached to them, are commercially attractive. Allowing health authorities to borrow against them, or to mortgage them against a firm closure date could in some cases release capital and revenue to develop community care now.

Regions which have not set up regional reserves need to be pressed by ministers through the annual review system to do so. But most importantly the government has to set up a substantial bridging fund of its own in the knowledge that much of it will be temporary extra expenditure. Once the closures take place, the savings will be realised. The money would be an investment in a future and better service, not an open-ended commitment to higher public expenditure.

With better central funding available the mechanism for developing community care programmes could be improved. Local authorities vary greatly in their willingness to take on more services for the mentally ill and some are wary of taking over health service spending for fear of the rate penalties such growth in services could eventually imply.

Differing needs

The channelling of bridging money through the joint consultative committees of local and health authorities plus local voluntary organisations which already exist could help ensure that it is spent only on well developed plans where all three bodies agree the programme and objectives. In addition health authorities could be encouraged to contract with local authorities and voluntary organisations to provide services needed. Anomalies in the present funding system also need ironing out. Social security, for example, will pay the board and lodging costs of discharged mentally-ill patients in private accommodation and voluntary homes, but not in local authority homes or NHS-run residential facilities.

Anyone who has studied the problem of schizophrenia knows that the picture is not all gloom. A third of sufferers have a single attack, recover and never have a relapse. A further third go through a steady cycle of recovery and relapse. They may need many times to go through the so-called "revolving door" between community care and the outside world. But as long as the facilities on each side of it are improved in the ways that we have described, there is a chance that many of these will have the opportunity to live fulfilling lives for themselves and safer lives for their families. Only the final third of sufferers are condemned to permanent reliance on the health and social services.

The responsibility for alleviating schizophrenia has to fall on individuals, on families, on charities, or voluntary organisations, on local and on central authorities. It has to be shared more widely and more fairly than it has been up to now.

It ought not to be beyond the capabilities of British society to recognise the different needs of those who need to make only the one return trip through the revolving door, those who make many return trips and those for whom the journey is one-way for ever. Without such a determined recognition today's tragedy of mental illness will become tomorrow's public scandal.

ment even this modest proposal. But, a far better reform would be the ending of the NCB's production monopoly altogether.

That would mean that private enterprise could develop new coal-fields, the industry's investment would be freed from Treasury constraints, coal would be more cheaply produced and more widely consumed, manufacturing costs would fall, industrial competitiveness would improve and unemployment would fall.

As these consequences seem to be universally desired, why does Mr Walker not act? Yours faithfully, NEIL HAMILTON, House of Commons, December 5.

Implications of the Westland deal

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, I look at the current row about the future of Westland as the member for a constituency in which a large part of Britain's civil science is concentrated: Harwell, the Rutherford Laboratory, etc. In this position I have become sharply aware of the decline in Britain's civil R & D (research and development), and of our disproportionate commitments in the military field. This is summed up in the latest Cabinet Office *Annual Review of Government-funded R & D*.

The UK Government comes bottom or next to bottom of the R & D league of the six major European Community nations in all areas except defence, in which it comes top.

I believe that it ought to be a major objective of both the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade and Industry to reduce this over-commitment and to shift resources of money and - above all - manpower into the wealth-creating sector.

To do this the Government cannot evade the need for a strategy for Britain's defence industries, from which, on the whole, the country gets rather a poor economic return.

The options are either to drop one or more major defence roles, and the supporting defence industry, or to import more, with the same result; or to promote more extensive international collaboration in military procurement - which at least offers some chance of retaining the more economically worthwhile elements of the industry.

International collaboration is obviously the preferable route, and before the Westland episode I had assumed that the Government was prepared to intervene positively to promote it.

Moreover, facing the choice between "American" or "European" it seemed that a doctrine was emerging which favoured the European option: American partnerships are much easier in the short run but threaten to dwarf Britain in the longer run, while European partnerships are always more difficult, but offer a better long-term prospect of mutual benefit on a basis of equality.

Now, however, both of these key propositions - that the Government

should have a positive strategy for international collaboration in defence procurement, and that it should consistently favour European rationalisation - seem to me to have been called into question by the DTT's approach to the future of Westland.

The only consolation is that if this means the end of a large chunk of the British aerospace industry - which absorbs a third of total Government R & D spending in industry, to no great profit - then there may, in the end, be a little more money available for more valuable activities in the civil field.

Yours sincerely, ROBERT JACKSON, House of Commons, December 18.

From Lord Caldecote, F Eng

Sir, In 1966-68 the European aerospace trade association, AIC-MA, made considerable progress towards achieving a constructive agreement between the European aerospace companies which would have enabled them to work more closely together and so meet competition from the USA more effectively. But then President de Gaulle said "Non" and it all fizzled out.

Since then there has been valuable progress in improving co-operation in the European aerospace industry, but we cannot afford to lose any opportunity for strengthening it further if this important part of European industry is to make its optimum contribution to prosperity and job creation in Europe. Dependence on licences from the USA is an unsatisfactory long-term substitute for successful development of new technology and products within an enterprising European aerospace industry.

So I hope the present attempt to frustrate a further strengthening of the European aerospace industry will fail and that those who support the European-based rescue for Westland will be able to convince its shareholders that in the long term that is the best course, which I have no doubt it is. The alternative is to put the clock back 20 years or more.

Yours faithfully, CALDECOTE, 91 Watcote Road, SE1, December 16.

Church and State

From Dr R. J. Bocock

Sir, Clifford Longley's articles (December 11, 12) on the Church of England, interesting as they were, omitted to discuss a crucial feature of the role of this Church in the life of the nation and the State. This is as the provider of what has been called the "civil religion" of a nation and State.

This aspect of the Church of England can be seen in the provision of rituals involving the monarch, the Coronation being pivotal in this respect. The life-cycle rituals of members of the Royal family are important, too, in the hold they exercise over millions of people, including the followers of other world religions.

These rituals are not empty gestures, but play a part in the construction of, not merely the expression of, the other feature of civil religion, namely its ethical dimension. Many of those who claim to be "C of E" mean by this that they try, even in contemporary Britain, to be "decent living" people. They may not attend church services, but may well watch, or

listen to, news on radio and television. Nevertheless many would be morally offended to be told that they have no right to think of themselves as "Christian" or as members of the "C of E".

It is not possible to alter these moral and ritual aspects of the role of the C of E in order to make its position intellectually more viable or neat and tidy. All nations and states have civil rituals which both construct and maintain their moral values, and celebrate their contributions to human civilization, and their victories in war. This is true of the Soviet Union and China, too.

If the Church of England did not provide the civil religion for the nation and the State, it would be necessary to invent some other organisation to do so - such as a political party, or nationalist social movement. Is this what some people now desire, given that the Church of England has ceased to be "the Tory Party at prayer"?

Yours faithfully, R. J. BOCOCK, 10 Village Close, Belsize Lane, NW3, December 4.

Ecological London

From Professor W. G. Chaloner, FRS and others

Sir, The future of ecological services of the Greater London Council and metropolitan councils was the subject of a debate in Parliament during the passage of the Bill to abolish these councils. The need for specialist teams to provide technical advice on applied ecology and nature conservation was widely recognised. Such work was supported by all political parties and it was left to the successor authorities in each area to decide how such services would be provided after March, 1986.

Second best

From Miss Helen Stephenson

Sir, I have an elderly flexible friend who has a serrated edge that I created with a pair of scissors (Mr R. Kerry, December 11). I find it invaluable for spreading the adhesive on to ceramic tiles.

Yours faithfully, HELEN STEPHENSON, 17 Coopers Road, Little Heath, Hertfordshire, December 11.

Officers' training

From Brigadier Sheldford Bidwell

Sir, We are told your Defence Correspondent, and also third leader, December 6) that the Army Board is once again about to tinker with the arrangements for preparing young officers for a military career. ("Educate" seems hardly the appropriate term.)

This will be the third or fourth occasion since 1945 and one cannot help feeling that there must be some blind spot in the leadership of a great national institution if it is unable to maintain a settled policy on so vital a subject.

The Army, surely, is a profession like teaching, the law and medicine, requiring both specialised knowledge and a sense of vocation; best provided in its own educational establishments and at a time when the mind is at its most receptive, say from 18 to 21. That is the system in other countries with military traditions as deeply rooted and as honourable as our own and was here until 1939.

The old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, may have suffered from a too rigid system of cadet-enforced discipline and authoritarianism, but in a strenuous course of two years laid a sound foundation of general knowledge, "imperial military geography", constitutional history, economics, basic law as well as relevant subjects such as tactics, military history and fortification, whose value was only realised in later years.

The immediate requirement, the practical art of soldiering, was learnt by ex-Sandhurst or Woolwich cadets and direct entrants from the university in the only possible environment, inside an active unit where, for all practical purposes, the second lieutenant was a probationer. It was a necessary process which took much time, forbearance and patience on the part of company officers and senior NCOs.

All that has long since gone. Today, due to a rejection of what is imagined to be "academic" teaching,

Making a start with morality

From Mr H. W. Marratt

Sir, Recent statements from various individuals (including senior members of the Cabinet) have indicated their concern about standards of behaviour amongst young people in our society.

Whatever one's views of the possible causes of current indiscipline or violence, there cannot be one simple solution. Nevertheless one factor deserves the serious attention of responsible members of society: there is no significant provision for religious and moral education in almost half the State's secondary schools beyond the third year (and in nearly all further education or sixth-form colleges), when pupils are facing the conflicts and challenges of adolescence.

The situation is made worse by the absence of compulsory courses in moral, personal and social education in the initial training of most secondary teachers.

During my time as Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the National Religious Education Council (which represents all the major professional and confessional organisations connected with religious or moral education) I have been assured by various ministers in the Department of Education and Science that they are equally concerned about such lack of provision. But they say, central Government is powerless to do anything because the responsibility rests with local education authorities (LEAs) or head teachers; most of the latter continue to make inadequate timetable provision for all pupils from 14 to 18 years of age in this area of the curriculum.

LEA councillors, school governors and local MPs of all parties have the power to do something: let them take religious and moral education seriously and ensure that their schools provide appropriate courses. If head teachers can ensure that the school is an environment for the teaching and practice of such values and attitudes, there is some hope that this experience and understanding may dominate their pupils' behaviour when they move out into a less secure environment.

Yours sincerely, H. W. MARRATT, Assistant Principal (Academic Affairs), West London Institute of Higher Education, Lancaster House, Borough Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, December 13.

Leave for parents

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Employment

Sir, I would like to take issue with five points stated or implied in the letter you published today (December 17) from Ms Ruth Evans, of the Maternity Alliance, on the European Commission draft directive on parental leave:

1. A legal right to parental leave is in place or actively being considered in - at most - eight of the 12 member states, if we include Spain and Portugal who join the Community on January 1.

2. The arrangements planned or in place in these eight member states are not compatible with the draft directive, particularly in the case of West Germany - the example quoted.

3. Britain's "obduracy" would be "hard to understand" if we were opposed to the "concept of parental leave", but we are not. There can be benefits to both employers and employees, but we believe that they - and not ourselves or the European Commission - are the best judges of what suits their own circumstances.

4. We do oppose the imposition of one type of arrangement by law regardless of particular needs, priorities and circumstances, and of what individual firms can afford. This imposition would add to employers' costs and reduce "flexibility in job opportunities within the labour market".

5. She claims that the West German legislation may create up to 200,000 one-year contracts. Between 1983 and 1984 female employment in the UK increased by 284,000 - more than the rest of the Community put together and compared with 1,000 in West Germany. We want to do better, but inflexible legislation will only hold us back.

Yours equally, PETER BOTTOMLEY, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Employment, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1, December 17.

the reluctance to use NCOs and

WOs (warrant officers) in fully responsible command positions and the frantic tempo of life at unit level, commanding officers demand fully trained platoon or equivalent commanders and Sandhurst is in reality no more than an officer training unit of the type established in the Second World War and retained during national service.

This may be expedient, and the performance of our units in various emergencies may justify a pragmatic approach. The pinch will be felt when the second lieutenants of today have to become the staff officers and senior commanders of tomorrow. Their upward career may be peppered with courses, but there will be no foundation on which to build.

I am Sir, yours faithfully, SHELDORF BIDWELL, 8 Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk, December 9.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 19 1817

News was scarce in this issue of four pages, comprising 20 columns, four of which were devoted to advertisements and nine to the trial of William Hone charged with publishing a profane libel against the Catechism and Lord's Prayer.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.-Mr. Kean appeared last night as *Luke*, in the play of *Riches, or, the Wife and Brother*. His performance of the character, and the general merits of the play in which it is the principal feature, are too well known to leave much room for observation. The part has not much flash or show about it, but requires the hand of a skilful master to draw it out, and to make the design of the author intelligible. The finest part of the action is the unexpected appearance of *Luke's* brother, *Sir John Traffic*, whom he had supposed dead, and with whose riches he was swelling and playing the tyrant. This is in Mr. Kean's best manner, and makes an impression which can never be forgotten. Mrs. Alsop was very successful in *Lady Traffic*, also, and quite at home in the old comedy, and delivered her blank verse with "good emphasis and good discretion".

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman, under date Port Louis, Isle of France, 5th September, 1817, on board the *Mermaid*, a small schooner, Captain Hearn: "We arrived here two days since; having, from various unforeseen causes, been obliged to make this deviation; our water and biscuits, from the tedious voyage, began to get short; we had reason to think the Monsoon in the Bay of Bengal would set in before our reaching Calcutta. We are now in a state of forwardness, and in three days will proceed on our voyage in hopes of being less baffled with head winds and calms."

From the *Norfolk Herald* of Nov. 17.-Arrived last night, the sloop *Hermis*, Captain BLAIR, in four days from St. Mary's, which gives the following intelligence respecting Amelia Island: "The United States brig *Saranac* had returned to St. Mary's from a cruise, and had brought several prizes in with her: there was a current report when the *Hermis* sailed, that the Patriots were about to make an attack upon St. Augustine by water, the *Morgiana* brig, with a tender and one large vessel, had sailed, and was to be joined by several other armed vessels, when the attack was to be made. Captain BLAIR could not ascertain the strength of the Patriotic army, nor any other intelligence respecting the affair. Amelia Island was still sickly when he left, the 13th."

MONTREAL, Nov. 1.-On Tuesday, Oct. 28, *Pierre Maturin* was convicted of having smoked in the hall of the new market, on the 10th of the month, and condemned to pay a fine of 5s. and costs of suit. *Antoine Houle*, convicted of having used an axe in place of a saw in retailing his beef, in the hall of the old market, was condemned in a fine of 10s. and costs.

NEWHAVEN (America), Nov. 13.-SEA-SERPENT AGAIN.-On Tuesday last, the 11th inst., in the forenoon, while Mr. Josiah Platt, and Mr. William Platt, were on the shore about 7 miles west of Newhaven lighthouse, they saw a strange animal, answering the description heretofore given of the serpent, pass about 10 rods from the shore, going westward, his head about 2 feet above water, his speed far greater than that of any animal they ever saw move in the water; in their opinion he went a mile a minute; his wake was as great as that of a common-sized yawl; the wild fowl appeared much frightened, and flew in every direction as he approached them. The foregoing was given me by one of the beholders, in whom you may place implicit confidence.

Several of the papers contain an account of a pugilistic contest at Norwich. We could not have thought it worth our while to make even an allusion to this offensive subject, had not the reporter of the fight ventured to assert that several well-dressed women were present at this exhibition of brutal force. We think better of the women of Norwich than to entertain such a belief respecting them even for a moment.

ALEXANDER OF RUSSIA.

UKASE, ADDRESSED TO THE LEGISLATIVE SYNOUD AT MOSCOW, BY ALEXANDER, EMPEROR OF RUSSIA. "Moscow, Oct. 27."

"During my late travels through the provinces, I was obliged, to my no small regret, to listen to speeches pronounced by certain of the clergy in different parts, which contained unbecoming praises of me; praises which can only be ascribed unto God: and as I am convinced, in the depth of my heart, of the Christian truth, that every blessing floweth unto us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ alone, that every man, every man, be who he may, without Christ is full only of evil; therefore, to ascribe unto me the glory of deeds in which the hand of God hath been so evidently manifested before the whole world, is to give the glory unto me, which lengtheneth unto Almighty God alone. I account it my duty, therefore, to forbid all such unbecoming expressions of praise, and recommend to the Holy Synod to give instructions to all the Diocesan Bishops, that they themselves, and the clergy under them, may, on similar occasions, in future, refrain from all such expressions of praise, so disagreeable to my ears; and that they may render unto the Lord of Hosts alone thanksgivings for the blessings bestowed upon us, and pray for the outpouring of his grace upon all of us, conforming themselves in this matter to the words of Sacred Writ, which require us to render to the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisibile, the only wise God, honour and glory for ever and ever. (Signed) ALEXANDER."

Horns of a dilemma

From Mr Osman Azis

Sir, Mr Schofield (December 12) might welcome home a vegetarian prodigal daughter with a bean-feast. Yours faithfully, OSMAN AZIS, Mousehill Court, Milford, Surrey.

From Mr A. T. M. Elliott

Sir, If the prodigal was unhappy with "the hucks the swine did eat," a vegetarian daughter might well be content with those they didn't eat - to judge by my compulsory morning muesli.

Yours faithfully, ADRIAN T. M. ELLIOTT, The Old Vicarage, All Souls Road, Ascot, Berkshire.

Coal industry reforms

From Mr Neil Hamilton, MP for Taunton (Conservative)

Sir, Your cogent editorial (December 4) calling on the Energy Secretary to begin a series of far-reaching reforms in the coal industry is most welcome.

This nationalised monopoly has been a major cause of the decline of manufacturing industry and consequent high unemployment. Taxpayers' support (entirely ignoring the effects of the miners' strike) is of the order of £2,000 million a year. The average "return" on assets is about minus 5 per cent per annum and Lord Marshall, Chairman of the CEBG, announced recently that because he is not free to purchase

coal in a free market electricity costs are at least 10 per cent higher than they need be.

A simple beginning of the end of this lamentable situation would be the repeal of section 1(i) of the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act of 1946, which gives the NCB the monopoly of digging coal wherever it may be found in the UK. Private operators can produce coal only with the NCB's permission - contrary to the interests of the consumer.

Three years ago the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommended an increase in the output limit on each production licence from 50,000 to 100,000 tons a year. There is no excuse for the Government's continuing failure to imple-

THE ARTS

Theatre

The imagination to escape in an abstract Arden

As You Like It
Barbican

A perennial problem in staging this piece is that Shakespeare's Arden is at once a pastoral El Dorado and a cold, unwelcoming chunk of English countryside. In Adrian Noble's production, this problem no longer exists, as the court and the forest are one and the same place.

The show opens in a dual antechamber with the sight of a group of evening-dressed courtiers draping a large dust-sheet over the furniture; and thereafter Bob Crowley's setting functions as a playground of the imagination. Draperies are used for dressing up, and for concealments and surprise entries. Meanwhile, the furnishings are still there, and if Touchstone wants to sit down and talk with the old shepherd, he simply selects an ornate chair from under the sheet.

The suggestion, when the production opened in Stratford last April, was that Rosalind and Celia had never left the dual nest, but merely embarked on an imaginative journey. "There's no clock in the forest," Rosalind remarked, with a grandfather clock staring her in the face, waiting to resume its ticking when the action has run out. The clock has now gone, along with the mirror which originally supplied a magic doorway. Wisely, the set has been revised towards greater abstraction, leaving open the possibilities of an actual journey while maintaining the image of imaginative escape.

The effect is at once ethereal and robustly theatrical. In place of the mirror, key moments of transition are



"Waves of musky intoxication": Juliet Stevenson (left), Fiona Shaw

now reserved for a great luminous pop-hole in the back wall, where figures poised for flight or return appear in silhouette.

At the same time, draperies come in for broad comic use, as where

Phebe and Silvius are exposed as if in bed; and for magical transformation, as where the trousered Rosalind drapes herself in silk in an act of double sexual masquerade. A large packing case serves all manner of

purposes from Touchstone's first jack-in-the-box entry to an impressive boudoir for the sulking Audrey. Finally, there is a circular playing area - part forest glade, part circus ring - where the games of courtship

are played out with disciplined concentration in Spanish dance, and where Nicky Henson's music-hall Touchstone comes into his own with stand-up comic routines (treating the Seventh Cause speech as an audience participation game for the whole court).

Detail has proliferated abundantly since the show first appeared; but its main gain has been in the emotional strength of the central relationships. Rosalind now has an Orlando of matching power in Hilton McRae, a taciturn ironist in the midst of the opening fight, and even pausing during the wrestling to bestow a smacking kiss on Charles. Fiona Shaw's Celia works wonders with that spinning role, beginning as a sharp-eyed spinstery tease and changing into mischievous gypsy once she settles into Arden (though I am not convinced by the treatment of the mysterious deer-slaying scene as her dream of a gang rape).

The main drama consists of Rosalind's transference of affections from Celia to Orlando. Juliet Stevenson seldom departs from convention in the early scenes where Celia emerges as much the more interesting figure. But, once the love game takes over, she succumbs to an erotic spell which comes over in great waves of musky intoxication.

The scenes are organized as a dance in which she is continually making free from Orlando to repeat the process of approach. Choreographically it is brilliant; emotionally it is spellbinding. Alan Rickman's Jaques, minus his rail-thin and redundant gestures, is much improved.

Irving Wardle

the camera in front of the canvas did modify the ordinary experience of the human eye.

By reinforcing that experience with other kinds of visual material (not all of which was well chosen - there was some silly business with a Nativity play), the context in which paintings are seen is also changed subtly.

There are of course disadvantages in this appearing on television. Like being stripped of another layer of skin, and artefacts as well as people may suffer from it. Paintings, when viewed on television and thus "seen" by millions of people in an altered state, may lose some of their power.

Peter Ackroyd

Television

Changing perception

There are certain disadvantages to the televising of ballet, as last night's *American Ballet Theatre at the Met* (Channel 4) demonstrated - the most obvious and important lying in the fact that the screen is too small to show to best advantage the members of an entire company; you might as well try and accommodate them within the proverbial telephone booth.

Classical ballets such as *Les Sylphides* (the first in the programme) suffer particularly: either the camera is so far away that nothing can be differentiated, or it is forced to come so close that, while the screen is dominated by one or two dancers, the strange hands and legs of others can be glimpsed waving in the corners.

But the advantages of tele-

vision more than compensate for these problems: the camera can be trained upon the movements of one dancer so that it is easy, in Kenneth MacMillan's *Triad* for example, to see the precise configurations of the dance in ways not possible from the back row of the stalls.

In that sense MacMillan's choreography can be transposed quite naturally to the screen, and it is even possible that the choreography itself has been influenced by television: the medium has, after all, changed perceptions both of space and of visual imagery.

This is not to say that ballet will ever find a wide audience on television - that is unlikely, perhaps - but it does at least suggest that it is an art capable of transformation and, therefore, a vital one still.

Looking into Paintings (Channel 4) has in turn suggested that television may alter the perception of what, by a pardonable exaggeration, can be described as a "sister art"; last night's programme, the last of a series, was concerned with the nature of narrative in painting, and the movement of



John Carlisle as the wicked uncle Ralph Nickleby (photograph by Chris Davies) - and as himself

The gruelling task of preparing a mainly new cast for the reopening of *Nicholas Nickleby* at Stratford has prompted John Carlisle - who comes in as Ralph Nickleby - to keep an eloquent rehearsal diary: Lynne Truss reports

An actor bids farewell to peace of mind

There is a story about a Royal Shakespeare Company director who so wanted his cast to understand the world of crime that during rehearsals he sent them out into Stratford with instructions to "be thieves". When he came out of the theatre that evening he found that a mischievous actor had stolen a wheel from his car. Many people in the commercial theatre yearn for the relative luxury of the rehearsal period, but John Carlisle, who is to play Ralph Nickleby in the new production of *Nicholas Nickleby* at Stratford, is not one of them.

For the privileged on the inside, however, rehearsals are still never long enough. It is well known that the very protracted period spent on devising *Nicholas Nickleby* in 1980 ran out with the cast excited but unprepared and the play brilliant but unfinished. It is slightly surprising, then, that Trevor Nunn and John Caird undertook to rehearse an almost entirely new company for the Stratford revival of *Nicholas Nickleby* in just eight weeks.

One of the many newcomers to the production is John Carlisle, who replaces John Woodvine as Ralph Nickleby, the wicked uncle. In Week Seven he was clearly feeling seriously under-rehearsed, but nevertheless displayed no sign of panic. The experience of rehearsing *Nicholas Nickleby* was one to be relished - so much so that he had been keeping a production diary since rehearsals began.

His initial impression in Week One was mainly of shock at the awesome scale of the

project. He records that it took the whole week for the company, sitting in a large circle, to read David Edgar's two plays. Meanwhile the company warily took first impressions of each other, bearing in mind that after seasons in Stratford and Newcastle they would be spending a year touring in the States. He writes:

We are going to be working and living together for the next eighteen months. This mix has got to work!

Week Two he describes as "a very Zen week", with Nunn and Caird getting down to the serious business of setting exercises to "break down barriers". Carlisle was impressed by the speed with which they achieved this, and greatly enjoyed the involvement they created.

For me the most successful exercise is when you act as a mirror to your partner. We were asked to alternate as mirrors to each other while John or Trevor called out different emotions and movements to us. It is impossible not to feel closer to someone when you have been showing them your anger, hate and love, and let it reflected back at you with the same intensity of feeling.

He started to think about his own character, Ralph, only in the third week. This was the stage when he said goodbye to peace of mind. The obsessive nature of Ralph seems to have got a hold on him immediately, and he found himself fighting the tendency to dwell on Ralph's "dark thoughts".

It is very wearing, all those thoughts of hate and greed, thinking "all love is carnal and vanity", that I am a villain and a jackal, that I know and accept myself as these things and am indifferent to them.

The malevolence of the character need not present too many problems for Carlisle, however, as he has tended increasingly over his five years with the company to concern himself with mean, dark characters, like Don John in *Much Ado*. He admits in fact that he may well be incapable now of playing a sympathetic character. What was preying on his mind at this stage of rehearsal was not so much what Ralph is like inside as how he should be played physically.

Am having difficulty with the Phiz illustrations. They show Ralph as being rather stout, and I find this disconcerting. Ralph's main driving forces are hate for the world and greed for money. The idea of him sitting down to rich food and wine when he could be making money and having people doesn't fit. It is not once mentioned in the novel that Ralph in fact eats at all. Phiz I'm afraid got it wrong. Ralph is thin, I am thin.

Having decided on the lean, predatory look it was an easy step to considering Norman Tebbit as a role model. "On your bike, Smike!" he adds, parenthetically.

Over this period too he obviously began to feel the constraints of playing a character already so well defined by Dickens and then dramatized by Edgar that it left him little room to manoeuvre. Playing Shakespeare, he notes, you can make it your own. But the character created by "Dickens and Edgar" is dense and specific.

After the huge advances of Week Three, Week Four was insecurity week, with the actors becoming absorbed in the



John Carlisle as the wicked uncle Ralph Nickleby (photograph by Chris Davies) - and as himself

problems of their individual roles. One of Carlisle's particular anxieties was that since Ralph is such a loner, hostile to all the rest of the cast would instinctively leave him alone, thus fuelling the paranoia inherent at this stage of rehearsal. Meanwhile Trevor Nunn gave an inspiring seminar on "the poor of London", making the cast share in the strength of Dickens's indignation.

In Week Five the diary ends, with Carlisle desperately keen to get on. "Feel I'm getting a grip on Ralph now and want to rehearse all the time," he writes. Things were at last falling into place, and importantly the company was beginning to feel strong and enthusiastic. Ralph was looming ever larger in Carlisle's life, so that by the last week of rehearsals he had to admit: "I do take him home with me. And he does drive the family up the wall."

With just a week to go before the first preview, and without even a full run-through yet achieved, he was refusing to be rattled, relying on Nunn's track-record in getting breathtaking performances from casts in a state of high anxiety. "He likes the edge it gives them." In fact he was looking forward to getting in front of an audience. "If we get anything like the first production got, then there will be a lot of marvellous energy for us to feed off. The audience will buoy us up."

● *Nicholas Nickleby* has just started previewing at Stratford; its official reopening is on January 4.

Opera

Rigoletto
Dominion

It was this newspaper which popularized Verdi's second most popular opera, at its Covent Garden premiere in 1853, of being "the most destitute of ingenious contrivance". Since then, directors have, of course, been losing no time in making up for it. Lucian Pimble's production for Welsh National Opera is now in London for two performances (on Tuesday and tomorrow); and, as Paul Griffiths made clear when it was new to Cardiff in May, it is no exception to the tradition.

The extreme distancing effect which Pimble's games of contrivance play do concentrate the mind on the work itself and the questioning it sets up, even as one watches, can do nothing but good. In this case it is the follies, the ambiguities, the eternal burlesque of *Rigoletto* which we are made to watch, the *questo o quello* of it all, the fickle this or that of its machinations. To that end, the emphasis is on a baroque dressing of costume, on a constant dressing and undressing, on posing in front of walls of mirrors and half-lights, on a court of thespian grotesques and a pantomimic send-up of almost every human emotion.

So far, so good. And, with this cast, the play-acting and undercutting has the perfect

Samson et Dalila
Albert Hall

I must begin by declaring disinterest. Not, I hasten to add, on my own part, but on that of the general public. The marketing machine may have been partly to blame, but it was nevertheless the 150th anniversary of the birth of Camille Saint-Saëns (an anniversary hitherto completely overlooked in this country, as far as I know) had to be celebrated by a concert performance of *Samson et Dalila* attended by only about 500 people, especially in this cavernous auditorium.

Given these circumstances, it would have been hard for the most expert of conductors to generate a sense of occasion and excitement. Here Alberto Portuguez was in charge, and without dwelling on the sad fact that too much, it has to be said that he is an infinitely more than accomplished pianist than conductor. Most of the time his head was buried in his score, and the best he gave was consistently wooden. But the Philharmonia Orchestra tackled Saint-Saëns's colourful, frequently over-sentimental, often beautiful score with fortitude. They were marvellous at the close, even if the transition between the first two scenes of the final act rather lost its direction.

But neither they nor the singers could disguise the fact that the reading, especially in the first two acts, simply lacked dramatic impetus. The one soloist who did manage to make his lines sound consistently

troupe to carry it off. Dennis O'Neill still glories in his impertinent, gymnastic, slightly ridiculous Duke, and is in excellent voice to ride over Richard Armstrong's at times puny chunch, at times almost brittle musical direction. Donald Adams's Monterone, Matthew Best's Sparafucile and Wendy Verco's Maddalena all darken the inkiness of Verdi's score, just as Armstrong deepens its shadows by emphasizing its lower bass voices. Even Gilda, now sung by Anne Williams-King, is cold statue-white of body and voice, little more than a passive victim of father and lover's manipulation.

But now Edward Tumsagian is the Rigoletto, and this rock, the production's own certainty. The extraordinary breadth of humanity he finds in the inkiness of his role suddenly throws everything else into a troubling perspective, and casts a light as white as Beverly Emmons's strobic on the production's central limitation. What we miss, finally, among the devices - piles of coal, the robes of white - is any real tussle with the relationships which twist and turn in Verdi's score. As with *Don Giovanni*, this time last year, the production is thick with ideas, but thin only on insight, and that, perhaps, says more about director than composer after all.

Hilary Finch

captivating was the young American tenor Gary Lakes, who sang Samson with a power, confidence and smoothness that bode extremely well for his operatic future. He attacks the high notes with the determination of a *heldentenor*, and always gets them, too, while it must have been helpful that he thoroughly looked the part, flowing locks and all.

Dalila was the Icelandic singer Sirry Ella Magnus, who is really a mezzo, although some of her lower notes sounded strained. Here is a pleasingly fruity voice, but Dalila ought surely to be a more venomous creature.

Gordon Sandison lent solid support as the High Priest, and the more minor roles were taken perfectly adequately by William Mackie, Roderick Earle, Brian Burrows, John Hancock and Jeffrey Talbot. The French choir, the Groupe Vocal Arpège de Bordeaux and the Ensemble Vocal Oratorio de l'Arpège, valiantly sang the choruses, which must have been a distinctly unnerving task on this occasion.

Stephen Pettitt

Sweden may not be a country noted for its outstanding string players, but the name of the young cellist Sven Forsberg has certainly imprinted itself upon my memory. Aside from Webern's superbly compact Three Little Pieces, Op 11, the music of his recital was taken from the standard repertoire. But Forsberg, with his elegant cantilena and undemonstrative good taste, found a fitting style for each piece, whether it was in terms of the vulnerable sonfulness of Schubert's "Arpeggione" Sonata, or the atmospherically quaint and rustic strains of the Stravinsky *Suite italienne*. The Swiss pianist Isabelle Trub, although a little forthright, executed her part with a complementary degree of feeling.

Forsberg has the ability to invest the various registers of the cello with differing expressive moods and this is the sign of a considerable artist. James Methuen-Campbell

Dance
First things lastThe Annunciation
Sadler's Wells

London Contemporary Dance Theatre's programme at Sadler's Wells this week puts the first things last - thank goodness. A dancer's day begins with class, but Robert Cohan's theatrical presentation of that beginning comes at the end of the evening to provide an exhilarating climax. Before that come two pieces on religious themes apt to the season, even though neither offers exactly a merry view of Christmas. These, too, are given in the reverse of chronological order.

A revival of Robert North's *The Annunciation* provides the centrepiece, preceded by Cohan's *Stabat Mater*, a multiple portrait of Mary grieving at the foot of the cross. Vividly music, plaintively but bravely solemn, is accompanied by simple images in which the arms carry most of the emotional weight - stretching up or out, sinking sadly down. Charlotte Kirkpatrick leads a cast of nine women with what looks like heartfelt piety.

Anita Griffin, dressed by the anonymous designer in scarlet, is Mary in *The Annunciation*. This, I am told, her last week with the company after a decade of decent service in mainly minor roles, which she made interesting always; she will be interesting always, is the angel. His news of sacrifice and sorrow is sadly unaccompanied in the choreography by any sense of glory to transfigure that gloom, except what Patrick Harding-Irmer manages to put



Anita Griffin as Mary in *The Annunciation*: she will be missed

there by his performance as Jesus.

It is difficult to think of another dancer who could match the grave, expansive clarity of his gestures and the intelligence with which he composes his powerfully muscled frame into Old Master poses for the episodes carrying his cross, hanging on it or lifted down from it.

In Class, too, it is Harding-Irmer on whom the eye naturally falls whenever he is in action: not only for his soaring strength but, even more, for the absolute control with which he finishes a sequence or undertakes the quieter passages. But the clever thing about this work is the way every member of the company is shown off in the steps that suit him or her best.

John Percival

Concert

RPO/Masur
Festival Hall

One hopes that Kurt Masur is the idol of his Leipzig public, because in the West his worth is still grossly under-appreciated. Despite remarkable Beethoven recordings of the 1970s we still ask for more proof. This superbly coherent performance of Brahms's Second Symphony provided an abundance.

Masur delights in the unforced flow, the lyrical legato, the mellifluous blends of trombones in chorale or violins surging warmly through a G-sung melody. Everything is integrated; changes in volume and speed tend to be barely perceptible until they have happened; *sfz* markings are regarded as gentle encouragement towards a firmly delineated rhythm, not as shuddering jolt. After their recent crash course with Dorati, the Royal Philharmonic players must have felt as if they were on tranquilizers. Coaxed rather than driven, they played beautifully.

Richard Morrison

Rock

Dire Straits
Hammersmith Odeon

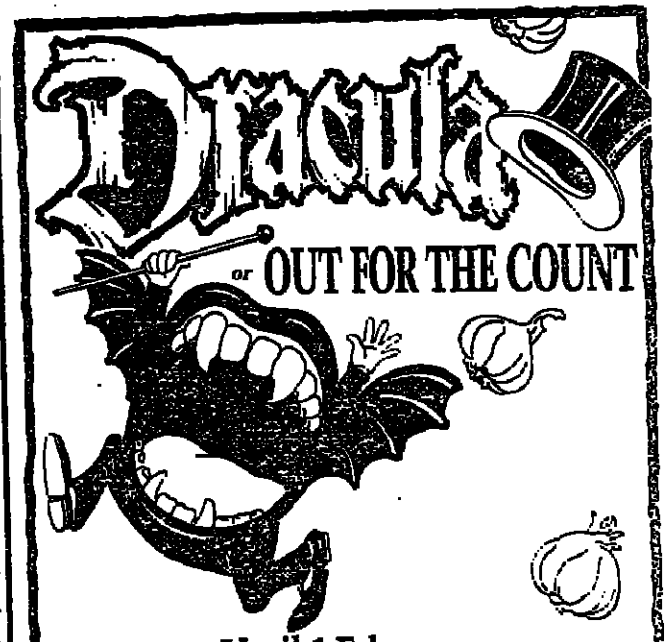
In a vain attempt to meet the insatiable demand for their services Dire Straits returned for the start of a seven-night season at Hammersmith Odeon only five months after their exceptional 13-date run at Wembley Arena, all part of a punishing continuous tour schedule which started in Israel last May and will end in Australia in April.

"Money for Nothing", Mark Knopfler ironically called it, in his song detailing the received wisdoms concerning the life of a pop star, and yet on the evidence of this performance it seemed as if Knopfler really would have been unlucky to suffer little more than the inconvenience of a "Blister on your thumb", he certainly was not about to break sweat.

Perhaps this was a reaction to previous performances at huge auditoriums: "After some of the places we've played this is like being stuck in a club," he said, and their show was indeed based on the kind of relaxed, deceptively casual approach one might expect in a venue of much smaller proportions than the Odeon.

It is one of the band's greatest strengths that, having recorded such remarkable material, they have the confidence to let the audience come to them, and it really was extraordinary to observe the ratio between energy expended on stage and audience reaction. As John Illsley, playing the staunch, unfussy bass parts, wandered round like a man secure in the knowledge that most eyes were not looking at him, and Knopfler slouched stage centre, the simple exposition of the music aided by some judicious lighting changes alone drew unanimous and noisy approbation at every turn.

David Sinclair



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Telex 72273
Registered Number 750

18th December 1985

Dear Shareholder,

The Argyll Group offer document has finally been posted to you. Nothing in that document alters our view that this highly-gearred offer is utterly inadequate. Argyll's experience as a high street supermarket operator in the United Kingdom is wholly irrelevant to Distillers' world-wide drinks business. Argyll's small drinks business operates at the opposite end of the market to that of our international premium brands. To date Argyll has displayed no understanding whatsoever of the nature of our business.

In addition, it has not escaped our attention that the timing of this offer is such as to ensure that the Christmas post will hinder our ability to respond. Nevertheless, we will set out our views on the offer from Argyll and describe some of the many successes which your Company has achieved, in a document to be posted to shareholders before the end of the month. In the meantime shareholders are strongly urged to take no action.

Yours faithfully,

Wm. Conry

CHAIRMAN, DISTILLERS

The Directors of The Distillers Company plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this document. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors of The Distillers Company plc, the information contained in this document is true and accurate and no material misstatement of fact has been made. The Directors of The Distillers Company plc accept responsibility accordingly.

Your offer has now been posted Argyll. So has our response.

The Argyll offer document runs to three volumes.

A weighty tome maybe, but it contains few weighty arguments.

It is long on verbiage and hollow criticism, but very short on Argyll's plans for the future.

Argyll make much of their management culture. But their's is a foreign culture to our own.

Whereas Argyll are largely concerned with cutting prices in the domestic market, we are concerned with building brands internationally.

Bear this in mind and you may not need to read Argyll's three booklets.

It may suffice to read the above letter that we are sending to our shareholders.

We totally reject the Argyll bid.

The Distillers Company plc.

This advertisement is published by The Distillers Company plc, whose directors (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

FINANCE &
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Services Bi
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MPs seek nom

Kalsells Arrow
Owners Abroad

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Services Bill likely to be tougher than expected

The Financial Services Bill, to be published today, is likely to enter the world a lusty and muscular infant, with teeth already showing. These promises to be considerably sharper than many in the City had either hoped or expected. The Bill's principal creation, the Securities and Investments Board, will be writing far more of the self-regulatory organizations' rule books than had previously been envisaged. The onus will in practice be on the SIB to make a case for deviating from the SIB's model rules, rather than the other way about.

As if that were not enough, the ostensibly innocuous distinction between an SRO and a recognized investment exchange is turning out to be bristling with hidden thorns. Most of those thorns are having to be grasped by the poor old Stock Exchange. While the Bank of England has done its bit by asking the would-be gits primary dealers to keep most of their dealings within the stock market, the Stock Exchange Council is grappling unhappily with the notion that members of other SROs, like Nasdim and ISRO, will have to be allowed to use the exchange's facilities.

'Dollar crash needed to wipe out deficit'

We have been warned many times of the consequences of the United States' twin deficits. Yesterday's study from the Washington-based Institute for International Economics represents the technicolor and Cinerama version of the gloom scenario. According to Stephen Morris, in *Deficits and the Dollar: The World Economy at Risk*, the dollar needs to fall by 25-30 per cent to correct the US trade deficit of \$150 billion.

Even then, US external debt will rise to \$500 billion, and the impact of the removal of the trade deficit on growth elsewhere in the world could be substantial, still more so if the American authorities have to respond to an overshooting dollar by jacking up interest rates.

The Morris solution is a familiar one, fiscal expansion in Europe and Japan, alongside a reduction in the US federal budget deficit, on which the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment is a welcome sign.

Even so, the author, formerly chief economist at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, still thinks that a dollar crash landing is highly likely.

Should this come about, as he has made clear in conversations with Washington journalists, the prospects for poor old Britain would be distinctly grim. Our small dose of Reaganomics, put us in the uncomfortable position of swimming against the tide, à la France in 1981/82.

The Institute for International Economics, in common with most other observers of the British scene, identifies a serious real wage problem and an overvalued currency.

Thus, we have most to gain by a co-operative approach in Europe to achieve faster growth, Mr Morris says, along with full British membership of the European Monetary System to provide a cushion against the pound's vulnerability.

One suspects that, if the dollar is to go through the sort of hammering outlined in the study, the European Monetary System might not live to tell the tale.

Cazenove receives St Michael's blessing

After putting a horde of firms through one of the most hard-fought "beauty contests" the City has seen, Marks and Spencer has appointed its new stockbroker. Despite the undeniable attractions of some of the other contestants, there is a touch of inevitability about the final choice. Retailing's equivalent of the royal warrant goes to Cazenove.

No matter what the upheavals in the City, Cazenove manages to retain its superior air. And when what is required for the client is fund raising, the firm's abilities are legendary. When The Daily Telegraph first came to the City in search of cash, it was Cazenove that managed to persuade normally prudent institutions that a newspaper publisher just months away from collapse was worth a punt. A triumph for the broker and its corporate client, if not for some of its dutiful investment clients.

Marks and Spencer, of course, is far removed from the financial situation at The Daily Telegraph but its decision to appoint Cazenove instead of one of the research-orientated houses is due to its unaccustomed need to raise cash. The company has embarked on a £1.5 billion retail expansion programme and the phenomenal success of the Chargecard could run up debts of £800 million. This kind of funding is going to require the co-operation of the City and, although this should not pose the slightest difficulty, Marks and Spencer probably feels that the well-oiled Cazenove machine will make the exercise even easier.

Perhaps it is a sign of the times that St Michael's process of getting into top financial gear began with the appointment of a public-relations consultancy, Valin Pollen, and stop short of signing on with a merchant bank. Marks and Spencer will probably appoint merchant banks on a transaction basis.

MPs seek nominee director review

By Our City Staff

One of the lessons to be drawn from the collapse of the De Lorean sports car venture is that the boards of publicly-funded companies should be required to make regular written reports on the progress of the business, an all-party committee of MPs recommended yesterday.

In a report on the role and responsibilities of nominee directors, the Committee of Public Accounts said it was "surprised to learn of the relaxed informal arrangements for nominee director to report to government departments and other public funding bodies, such as development agencies."

The report emphasized that nominee non-executive directors, appointed by the Government and non-departmental

public bodies to boards of assisted companies, had an important role to play in monitoring the investment of public funds.

In the wake of the De Lorean affair, which cost the British taxpayer £77 million, the committee considered it essential that the role of nominee directors should be clarified. In an earlier report it had criticized the nominee directors for giving Mr John De Lorean "too much freedom to manipulate the companies to his own ends."

The committee strongly recommended that in any future case where substantial public financial assistance was provided for large speculative investment, it should be a condition that an audit committee of the board must be

established. The core function of an audit committee would be to review company financial statements, internal financial controls and the audit arrangements.

In cases where it was difficult to find nominee directors of the right calibre and experience, the committee suggested the contractual use of accountants and consultants.

The report noted "with concern" that there was only general guidance on the role of nominee directors. The committee wanted the Treasury to review the effectiveness of the nominee system and to provide more comprehensive advice on monitoring duties.

Committee of Public Accounts: Role and Responsibilities of Nominee Directors (Stationary Office £6.50).

Reagan blocks protectionist move on textile imports

From Bailey Morris Washington

President Reagan, acting on his promise to fight protectionist action, has vetoed highly restrictive textile legislation which was regarded as the most important trade Bill in this session of Congress.

At the same time, however, responding to the chorus of appeals from United States industries for relief from rising imports, Mr Reagan promised to take tough, internal action to restrict textile and shoe imports from developing countries.

He ordered Mr Clayton Yentler, the US trade representative, to negotiate a new multi-fibre textile agreement "aggressively" on terms no less restrictive than the present agreement. At the same time, he ordered Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, to complete an investigation within 60 days on whether nations are exceeding existing import limits.

Mr Reagan said he vetoed the protectionist legislation, which



President Reagan: vetoes quota plan

would have put strict quotas on imports from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and elsewhere, because he did not want to trigger a wave of retaliatory action from US trading partners.

It is not clear, however, whether the President's action, in promising a tougher stance

against textile and shoe imports, will be sufficient to head off additional protectionist legislation next year.

Congressmen from textile and shoe-producing states promised yesterday to introduce even tougher measures during the mid-term election campaign next year, to prove to their constituents that they are serious about restricting imports.

"We still intend to press for meaningful restrictions on the flood of imports that are devastating the American shoe and textile industries," said Mr George Mitchell, a Democrat from Maine, which is a large shoe-producing state.

The big loss of jobs in these two labor-intensive industries is expected to be a strong election-year issue, especially in the South.

By defeating this Bill, however, Mr Reagan has slowed the momentum of the protectionist drive in Congress, where more

than 300 highly restrictive trade bills are still pending.

●HONG KONG: Asian exporters welcomed President Reagan's veto, calling it a reaffirmation of free trade principles (Reuters reports).

But they gave a warning that US manufacturers would continue to press for protection against competition from cheaper Asian goods saying pressure could surface again in Congress as talks to renew the multi-fibre arrangement, an international textile accord that expires next year.

South Korea's trade ministry said the bill would have dealt a serious blow to the Korean economy.

Korean trade officials estimated it would have cost the country \$600 million in annual export earnings and about 25,000 jobs.

The chairman of the Taiwan footwear Manufacturers' Association, Mr Chen Chia-Sheng, said the veto saved at least 400 factories from closing and preserved thousands of jobs.

£16 million rescue for Logica

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Eight City institutions have agreed to participate in a £16 million rescue for Logica, the computer software company brought to the edge of financial ruin by its attempt to manufacture and sell an all-British word processing system.

The rescue, organized by Kleinwort Benson, is seen by Logica's chairman, Mr Philip Hughes, as a way of keeping Logica independent and British in the face of takeover moves by Electronic Data Systems of the United States.

Mr Hughes said yesterday that the EDS takeover proposal was a welcome and that several of his clients had expressed concern about the possibility of control of Britain's leading independent software company going overseas.

Under the rescue proposals, VTS, the Logica subsidiary

which manufactures the word processor, will close at the end of January with the loss of 250 jobs in Swindon. Logica will also be closing its other office automation subsidiary, ITC of California, unless a buyer can be found within the next month.

The two closures will cost Logica £15.9 million in provisions and write-offs. The £16 million rescue will recapitalize the company and pay off its bank borrowings.

The money is being raised by placing 14.5 million new shares at 110p with eight institutions comprising Close Brothers, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, Kleinwort Benson, Legal & General, National Provident Institution, Provincial Insurance, Scottish Amicable and Scottish Investment Trust. Up to 60 per cent of these

Wages still running ahead of inflation

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The growth in earnings eased in October, because of a drop in the amount of overtime worked. However, there is no indication of a general fall in the rate at which pay is increasing and the gap between earnings and prices was at its widest since February.

The recorded increase in average earnings in the 12 months to October was 6.0 per cent, sharply down on the 10.1 per cent rate in September. The figures were heavily distorted and the underlying rise is estimated at 7.5 per cent in October, slightly down from 7.7 per cent in the previous month. Retail price inflation in October was 5.4 per cent.

The figure of 6.0 per cent was artificially low. Back pay in October was much lower than a year earlier, depressing the 12-month increase by 2 per cent. Differences in the timing of pay settlements pushed down the increase by 0.5 per cent, while the depressing effect of the coal strike on earnings a year ago boosted the 12-month increase by 1.25 per cent.

After allowing for these factors, the only basic change was in overtime working. In manufacturing, hours of overtime worked dropped from 12.35 million hours a week in September to 11.84 million hours in October. This depressed average earnings growth by 0.25 per cent. Officials gave a warning however, that a recovery in overtime working could reverse this, as early as in the November figures.

Earnings in manufacturing were up by an underlying 8.75 per cent in the 12 months to October, down from 9 per cent in September. The actual fall, exaggerated by back pay and timing of pay settlements, was from 9.3 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

As a result of this, and unusually buoyant manufacturing output in October, unit wage costs in manufacturing were up by only 3.3 per cent in October, compared with a year earlier. Officials said, however, that this figure is highly unreliable and that a better assessment is provided by the increases in the last three to four months, taken as a whole. These show unit wage costs in manufacturing rising at 6 to 7 per cent a year.

AVERAGE EARNINGS (per cent rise on a year earlier)		
	Actual	Underlying
1984 Q1	6.1	7.75
Q2	5.4	7.75
Q3	5.8	7.5
Q4	7.7	7.5
1985 Q1	9.2	7.5
Q2	7.7	7.5
0000 July	8.8	7.5
August	8.8	7.5
September	10.1	7.5
October	7.5	6.0

Source: Department of Employment

Thames TV to seek share listing

By Teresa Poole

Thames Television, Britain's largest independent television station, yesterday announced that it will seek a stock market listing next year, with between 30 and 40 per cent of its shares offered for sale to the public.

In October the Independent Broadcasting Authority voted an £82.5 million takeover of Thames by Carlton Communications, the television services company. The IBA has fully endorsed the flotation, which is likely to take place at the end of June.

BET and Thorn EMI both own 47.5 per cent of Thames, with the staff holding the remaining 5 per cent. A further 5 per cent may be set aside for employees, which would mean that the major shareholders will each dilute their stakes to between 25 and 30 per cent.

The Carlton bid was considered generous and analysts yesterday estimated the company's value at between £55 million and £65 million.

In its last full accounting year, Thames suffered from strikes and a fall in advertising revenue. Pre-tax profits fell from £13.5 million to £8.8 million, with all the profits coming from international programme sales. Advertising has now picked up and the company is believed to be on target for profits of £11 million for the year to March 1986.

Thames first considered a public flotation in 1982, and again about 18 months ago when the uncertainty over direct broadcasting satellite programme was seen to rule it out. Before the unexpected bid from Carlton in October, the company was once more planning a partial flotation.

The value of the company may well be affected by the uncertainty of the current review into the Exchequer levy - a tax on ITV profits and the Pensions inquiry into the fund-keeping of the BBC which is expected to report next Autumn.

Onshore gas supply breaks monopoly

By David Young Energy Correspondent

The British Gas Corporation monopoly in supplying gas to industry is to be broken on New Year's Day when gas from Britain's first onshore natural field begins flowing to a Humber-based brickworks.

British oil companies have had the legal right to sell gas direct from their oilfields to industry since 1982 but they have been unable to do so because of the failure to resolve issues involving access to the British Gas supply network.

However, Taylors Woodrow Energy has been given permission to develop an onshore field at Hatfield Moor, The Belton Brickworks - four miles away - has contracted to buy the gas for the next 15 years, and has built its own pipeline from the well-head to its kilns.

The brickworks, owned by a private company, Innes-Lee, produces 20 million facing bricks, which are used in areas where their colouring blends with existing stone structures.

The company will continue to take British Gas supplies for one of its kilns, but because of the isolated position, British Gas has been unable to increase deliveries. Innes-Lee's other brickworks in Derbyshire is



Alick Buchanan-Smith: 'Act has opened up market'

partly fired with gas tapped from natural waste.

Mr William Lee, of Innes-Lee, said: "The gas we are buying is cheaper than British Gas can supply and the price we are paying Taylor Woodrow Energy is more than they would get from British Gas."

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Energy, said yesterday: "This proves that the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 has indeed opened up the market place to independent suppliers. It is to be Britain's only producing onshore gas field and the first whose entire output will be taken by a single customer."

New offer for Drayton

By Lawrence Lever

The takeover battle between the National Coal Board Pension Fund and Drayton Premier Investment Trust moved up a gear yesterday as the fund increased its offer for Drayton Premier to 52 1/2 p a share against the initial offer of 50p.

The new offer came after the purchase by the fund of 3.15 million Drayton Premier shares in the market on Tuesday at 52 1/2 p a share. This took the fund's stake in Drayton Premier from 28.2 per cent to 38.4 per cent.

However, the total acceptance for ordinary shareholders in Drayton Premier of the fund's 500p offer represented

only 1 per cent of Drayton's ordinary shares.

The Drayton Premier board, rejecting the increased offer, described it as "still totally unrealistic".

Drayton Premier - its shares rose from 51p to 52p on news of the bigger offer - said that it amounted to a "substantial discount of 9 per cent on the Drayton board's estimate of 57 1/2 p a share net asset value on December 9."

The fund's advisers, Warburg, last night attacked Drayton Premier's calculation of the trust's NAV "as out of date".

The increased offer will remain open until January 6.

IN BRIEF

Oil fears hit pound

The pound fell 1.75 cents to \$1.4207 yesterday, amid market fears of renewed oil price weakness. It also dipped 3 pence to DM3.5750. The sterling index fell 0.5 to 78.

In trading that was reasonably active for the time of year dealers could cite no single factor for the concern over oil prices. The price for future delivery, in fact, showed a small recovery.

The dollar gained against most currencies, and was up a pence to DM2.5160. Attention is focused on the US "flash" gross national product figures for the fourth quarter, expected to show an annualized rise of about 3 per cent.

A figure below this would increase speculation of an imminent cut in the US discount rate, while signs of stronger growth would give additional help to the dollar.

Hogg cash call

Hogg Robinson Group, the holiday and insurance company, yesterday launched a £15 million rights issue of one share at 340p for every six held. It also announced profits of £5.82 million before tax, up from £4.49 million, for the six months to September 30. The interim dividend is up from 3.8p to 4.4p and the company expects to pay a final of 5p.

Tempus, page 19

Archer buyout

The largest divestment at Lloyd's market has been effected by the £12 million management buyout by A J Archer & Partners of 10 Alexander Howden syndicates, with a premium capacity of £183 million.

Mr Timothy Aitken, chairman of Leisuretime International and until recently chief executive of Aitken Hume, the merchant bank, has mopped up half of the 16 per cent in Leisuretime that came onto the market as a result of Aitken Hume selling its entire holding. Mr Jonathan Aitken, chairman of Aitken Hume, said it was bank policy to dispose of strategic investments and the timing had nothing to do with Mr Timothy Aitken's departure.

Lead optimism

Lead prices could rise next year and into 1987, but zinc prices are likely to fall, Shearson Lehman says in its *Annual Review of the World Lead and Zinc Industries*, out today. Demand for both metals is forecast to be substantially unchanged from 1985 over the next two years.

Builder sold

Hunting Gate Group has made its first corporate acquisition by buying the Haywards Heath-based housebuilder, HomeMaker Group of House-building Companies, for a sum said to be just over the net asset value of the company, which has not been disclosed. HomeMaker Group has shareholders' funds totalling £3.6 million and a turnover of over £5 million.

Maxwell stake

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, yesterday announced the purchase of a further 2.35 million shares in Britannia Arrow, taking his stake to 6.6 per cent. He started buying Britannia's shares at the request of its chairman, Mr Geoffrey Rippon, as part of its defence against the bid by Guinness Peat Group.

Bankers Trust Company has been asked by the Government to determine whether management buyouts of National Bus Company subsidiaries are an appropriate means of privatization. The study will be completed early next year.

Price plea

Metal Box, the market leader in can making, was urged to delay a demand for price rises on food cans of up to 3.5 per cent, by the Food Manufacturers' Federation. It wants a postponement until the tin market has settled.

BCal sells Arrowsmith to Owners Abroad for £1

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Owners Abroad Group is paying a nominal £1 for Arrowsmith Holidays, once part of the Laker empire, to British Caledonian, which has decided to pull out of package holidays to concentrate on its main airline business.

BCal is said to have paid £250,000 when it bought Arrowsmith from Greenall Whitey, the North-west brewer, in September. With Greenall Whitey, Arrowsmith, which is based in Manchester with a regional trading appeal, had been losing money.

When the price war over next summer's package holidays reached its peak, later in the autumn, BCal decided to get out of tour operating. It is still in discussions to sell its Blue Sky tour operation which has also

been loss-making. Rank Travel, whose holidays operations include OSL, Wings and Butlins, is thought to be front-runner to buy Blue Sky.

At Owners Abroad Mr Neil Scott, chairman, said yesterday: "We could not contemplate Blue Sky as well as Arrowsmith because of its size and the additional bonding demanded. But Arrowsmith will strengthen our North-west presence in an important regional market."

Arrowsmith handles more than 80,000 holidaymakers a year, and Owners Abroad's about 500,000.

Owners Abroad is also a big aircraft seats consolidator, acting as a middleman between charter aircraft companies and tour operators.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	1104.6 (+14.7)	Andre de Bret	27p +5p	London:	
FT All Share	667.88 (+5.15)	Kode int	80p +10p	\$: \$1.4207 (-0.0175)	
FT Gov Securities	82.70 (-0.21)	HB Electronic Comp	40p +5p	DM: 3.5750 (-0.0235)	
FT-SE 100	1378.3 (+13.4)	Microlease	228p +28p	SwFr: 2.9882 (-0.0238)	
Bergame	20.78	Airflow Streamlines	39p +4p	FFr: 10.9468 (-0.0812)	
DataStream USM	104.46 (-0.22)	Debron Irv	40p +4p	Yen: 285.25 (-1.88)	
New York		Trition Europe	275p +5p	Index: 78.0 (-0.5)	
Dow Jones	1551.37 (88.7)	W Tyzack Sore & Turner	80p +7p	New York:	
Nikkei Dow	13,102.34 (-26.80)	Bentalls	148p +13p	\$: \$1.4202	
Hong Kong		MS International	68p +8p	DM: 2.5175	
Hang Seng	1726.94 (+8.49)	Microvidec	24p +2p	\$ Index: 127.3 (+0.5)	
Ambassadors	242.6 (+1.4)	Goal Pet	54p +4p	ECU: 20.610322	
Sydney: AO	966.1 (+5.6)	Wade Potteries	123p +8p	SDR: 20.757284	
Frankfurt		Oscoronic Grp	29p +2p		
Commerzbank	1844.6 (+8.1)	Elam	202p +12p		
Brussels:					
General	852.93 (-34.88)				
Paris: CAC	251.1 (-2.3)				
GOLD		FALLS:		INTEREST RATES	
London fixing:		Jebeane Drilling	18p -10p	London:	
am \$321.10 pm \$320.05		Central & Sherwood	50p -1p	Bank Base: 11 1/4%	
close \$320.00-\$320.50 (\$225.00-225.50)		WA Holdings	147p -15p	3-month interbank 11 1/4-11 1/2%	
New York:		Channel Tunn	147p -15p	3-month eligible bills:	
Comex \$320.35		Ind Fin & Invest	58p -8p	buying rate 11 1/4-11 1/2%	
		Fergabrook	25p -2p	Prime Rate 8.50%	
		Hogg Robinson	272p -18p	Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
		Polytechnic Electronic	165p -18p	3-month Treasury Bills 7.06-7.05%	
		Petrol	85p -5p	30-year bond price 104 1/2-104 3/4%	

US commodity group offers proposals to end tin crisis

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Senior officials from Drexel Burnham Lambert, the big American investment bank and commodity trader have informally presented to the International Tin Council proposals for ending the two-month-old tin crisis.

There was a number of anxious meetings in London yesterday at which bankers, brokers and the ITC sought to find a way out of the impasse apparently created on Tuesday when the European Economic Community did not agree to share the cost of rescue.

The Drexel plan, put forward by officials from New York, including Mr Tom Lovell, the head of the operations, offered the ITC generous financing terms in return for which

Drexel would take the ITC's stocks on to its books.

The proposals suggest an interest rate holiday on the £350 million of bank loans to the ITC, a rolling-up of those loans, and a 5 per cent interest rate after the end of the holiday.

Drexel has been a heavy player in the tin market through its ring dealing LME subsidiary, MacLaine, Watson. Sources close to the company say it could suffer losses running into millions of dollars if the tin price collapsed. Drexel may be concerned about customers bringing legal actions if it does not fulfil contracts falling due soon.

But banking sources said last

night they had not been consulted about the Drexel plan which also differs from that put forward by a group of 13 LME brokers. The spokesman for that group, Mr Ralph Kestevenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals, visited the Bank of England yesterday afternoon.

After informal meetings between delegates yesterday morning, the ITC went into formal session late in the afternoon to try to reach a consensus. London sources suggested that it might be possible for the other 19 ITC members to ignore France, Germany and Holland, which had blocked agreement in Brussels and renew discussions with LME brokers and the council's creditors.

TEMPUS

Gilts market lacks winter fuel for Christmas boom

Gilt yields edged higher again yesterday for the fourth consecutive trading session, as the flatter yield curve in the money markets is a fairly defensive sign, in terms of rates. Traders report parallel manifestations of nervousness in the gilts market - edgy bulls, prices sharply easier for choice and a reluctance by the jobbers to make a book of any size.

Adding to the apprehension is the market's striking inability to score any gains on the back of good fundamental economic data. The encouraging drop in the growth rate of United Kingdom earnings had as little impact as Tuesday's unexpectedly low FBR figure. The market was also unnerved by the Prime Minister's pledge to retain a tight fiscal stance, even at the expense of vote-winning tax cuts.

Critical to any appraisal of yield trends, however, is a viable interpretation of the Government Broker's surprise appearance last Friday with £600 million of tapestry. Sentiment has undoubtedly suffered because of the extra funding he announced. Why did the Broker make his move?

A touching faith in the efficacy of the Thatcher factor? Maladroitness? A new school of thought yesterday maintained that the tapestry was intended as a warning to the market not to become over-optimistic about rate cuts.

This charitable line finds some endorsement on the back of the Bank of Japan's moves yesterday to stabilize the yen-dollar rate by letting interest rates find a more normal level. This means that the Japanese can now invest with greater security in New York bonds, because the currency risk will lessen. The strength of Nippon demand showed up yesterday not in the poor response to an auction of two-year Treasury notes (which the Japanese tend not to buy), but in the dollar's all-round improvement. Sterling, by contrast, was almost a cent down at \$1.4325 by mid-morning in New York.

Oil price fears and a poor chart pattern for sterling also apparently impeded the authorities' scope to cut rates. These harsher realities of life are not what traders are accustomed to thinking and hearing. But perhaps the game should now be played according to a far tougher rule-book.

Hogg Robinson

Hogg Robinson Group has provided the market with a riddle. It has plenty of spare cash, yet it has decided to launch a £15 million rights issue. It gives no clear reason for the issue, other than that it would like to clear the decks of debt incurred through recent acquisitions, including the purchase of 39 travel shops from Exchange Travel.

Hogg Robinson says it would like to expand in the field of insurance services for the individual. It looks forward to working more closely with building societies and possibly other organizations with a retail network. It could also sell insurance to the customers of its holiday business, thereby making more sense of the combination of the two businesses than is now apparent to many outsiders.

Without specific spending targets, shareholders may well

wonder about the benefits of a rights issue. The company claims there is little or no damage in the form of earnings dilution, but this depends on how it does its calculations. Because the rights issue will effectively take place towards the end of the year, the effect on this current year is minimal. But if the money is still sitting in a bank account next year, there will be significant dilution.

The prospect should, however, be put in the context of yesterday's good interim results. Profits were up from £4.5 million to £5.8 million before tax, with the insurance broking side ahead by 27 per cent on an underlying basis. That was helped by higher income from investments and cash. The holiday business was up by 17 per cent, both on the corporate and retail side.

Morgan Crucible/First Castle

The bid battle between The Morgan Crucible and First Castle Electronics is in danger of turning into more of a fight between their merchant bank advisers - Morgan Grenfell and Hill Samuel respectively - than between the protagonists. For Morgan Grenfell in particular, much is at stake after its recent defeat over Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, French Keir, and Spear & Jackson International.

It is, therefore, not entirely surprising that Morgan Crucible's offer document bombards shareholders with separate arguments. The problem is that they are not all compatible.

Morgan Crucible claims its offer, now worth 146p a share with a cash alternative of 132p, represents a generous multiple of 2.2 fully taxed earnings. Allowing for share price movements in the interval, this is the same controversial claim it made in its original press release.

The final offer document pretty much meets objections to that claim by acknowledging that First Castle does not pay anything like a full tax charge. What it still does not say, but shareholders might like to consider, is that allowing for First Castle's tiny tax charge, the offer is priced at only 13 times earnings.

Morgan Crucible and its advisers have chosen to represent the offer as generous in this way, yet they then go on to knock the company. The offer document points out that First Castle has had to make no fewer than three prior-year adjustments to its accounts and has made three rights issues in recent years.

Morgan Crucible cannot believe these points represent fundamental flaws, otherwise presumably they would not be bidding for First Castle. The intention must be to persuade the market that a higher offer will not be forthcoming.

The market seems to have taken the point to heart. First Castle's share price fell into line with the share offer yesterday. But until First Castle has responded, shareholders should not sell.

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● **JOHN MOWLEM:** An initial public offering of 22 per cent of Mowlem's subsidiary, Bushier International Incorporated, has been made on the Nasdaq market in the USA at \$11.50 per share. The offering values Bushier at \$58.6 million (£40.9 million).

● **REMROSE CORPORATION:** The company is to sell Remrose Flexible Packaging, Remrose Engraving and Remrose Cartons to Low and Bonar for £8.85 million cash.

● **CAPARO PROPERTIES:** The company has conditionally agreed to buy Beaumont Medical Services, which is involved in the building, refurbishment and management of nursing homes. The price of about £3 million will be satisfied by the issue of 7.5 million new ordinary shares in Caparo, valued at 40p each.

● **BRITANNIA ARROW:** Guinness Peat now owns or has received acceptances for 43,111,215 Britannia ordinary shares (28.57 per cent) and £10 million nominal of convertible stock (33.36 per cent), which is convertible into 10.8 million Britannia ordinary shares. The increased offer and cash alternative are open until January 3.

● **TELFOS HOLDINGS:** The company is to raise about £2.07 million by a rights issue. Terms: one unit, comprising two new ordinary shares, one preference and one warrant, at 200p a unit for every 10 ordinary shares held. The warrants will enable holders to subscribe for ordinary shares.

● **MANSFIELD BREWERY:** For the half-year to September 27, with figures in £000, turnover was 43,837 (38,646), while the pre-tax profit was 4,005 (4,338). Earnings per share were 15.7p (15.6p). An interim dividend of 2.25p (2.25p) is being paid on January 3.

More company news on page 21

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares make a spirited revival

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares captured the Christmas spirit yesterday for the first time this year. At the close the FT 30 share index was up 14.7 points to 1,104.6 points as some investors took the view that the recent declines had been overdone.

But the index is still nearly 10 points below the level it started the account. There had been hopes that the present two weeks trading period would propel the index to within

L. Messel & Co., the broker, believes that profits of Midsomer Inns, the public houses to discotheques group, will soar from £402,000 to £700,000 this year. The shares rose 25p to 305p yesterday.

striking distance of the 1,200 points mark. But unless there is a remarkable upsurge today and tomorrow there appears to be little hope that the index will be in a position to hit 1,200 points in the three week account starting on Monday.

If the 1,200 points level had been reached this year it would have represented a 1985 gain of nearly 250 points.

Part of yesterday's advance was due to jockeying for position ahead of new time buying for Monday's new account.

Many of the old speculative favourites, sadly out of fashion for much of this account, were back in demand. But trading was slack.

With sterling weaker, international stocks were wanted but gilts fell by up to 1/4.

Newcomer Chetwyn Street, the advertising and public relations group, was traded at an 8p premium to its 120p offer price.

There was considerable speculation in Beecham Group and Boots. Beecham rose 7p to 330p, against the 270p level touched when Sir Ronald Halstead was ousted as chairman. Boots rose 7p to 259p.

Rumours have swirled that Unilever could be interested in bidding. But the Anglo-Dutch group has been linked with at least two American groups recently. Another view was that Beecham could be planning a link with Boots. Such a merger would, on past form, attract the attention of the Monopolies Commission.

Other stores were mixed. British Home Stores retreated 8p to 335p but Esam, W. H. Smith, Superdrug and Woolworths Holdings made progress.

Marks and Spencer, on the appointment of Cazenove & Co. as its broker, rose 3p to 177p. The formal appointment of a market force like Cazenove is seen as the prelude to a fund raising operation.

Trafalgar House gained 4p to 347p after news that it has sold out its 50 per cent stake in the London evening newspaper *The Standard* to Associated Newspapers, owner of the other half of the London tabloid. The price rise for Trafalgar makes

up some of the ground lost in recent weeks following the appearance in the market of large lines of stock in the construction to property group. *The Standard* shareholding was the last of Trafalgar's newspaper interests.

Associated Newspapers slipped 10p to 930p on the news, though perhaps the market should be worrying more about United Newspapers. In buying Fleet Hold-

The P&O shipping group, which has 13 per cent of Ocean Transport and Trading but has said it has no plans to bid, may be contemplating boarding European Ferries. P&O shares dipped 7p to 518p yesterday and Euroferries eased 1p to 147p. Euroferries has 29.9 per cent of the Stockley property group, which in turn has a significant stake in Stock Conversion. Sir Jeffrey Sterling, P&O's chairman, made his name in property.

ings two months ago United picked up the lucrative printing contract for *The Standard*.

Now that Associated - owner of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday* - has full control of the evening paper, there is much Fleet Street speculation that the contract will be taken away from United. Nevertheless, the latter's share price yesterday was 2p better at 275p.

There was plenty of Christmas goodwill for brewing

shares, with Arthur Guinness coming back into favour as analysts look forward to next month's results. Market forecasts hover around the £83 million to £84 million mark, against last year's £70.4 million. The bout of selling which has afflicted Guinness shares in recent months came to an end with an 8p gain to 290p, a price still some way short of the 1985 high of 320p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Bass put on a good show with a 10p rise to 645p. Allied-Lyons rose 5p to 365p and Grand Metropolitan improved 3p to 366p ahead of today's results. There were also gains of a penny or two for second-line issues.

Imperial Group made a modest 5p rise to 257p alongside publication of a circular from Grierson Grant, the broker. The City firm says the bid from Hanson Trust under-values Imperial by around £500 million. The city firm's £2.4 billion estimate is clearly 25 per cent higher than the Hanson offer.

On the food manufacturing pitches, Bernard Matthews shares rose 5p to 545p with the usual pre-Christmas support for the turkey producer. Recent publicity for anti-factory-farming protestors has not soured the City taste for Matthews profitability.

Logica took a knock from the announcement of a cash call worth £15.1 million, after expenses. Only this week the

market was rewarded for weeks of speculation by news of a possible bid from General Motors, but yesterday's money-raising exercise took the shine off the share price, leaving it 8p lower on the day at 149p.

Elsewhere among electricals shares, there was talk of late excitement in Plessey. Dealers heard tales of a buyer of size appearing on the scene, but the share price made only modest gains. At 179p, up 3p on the

day, it looked as though the Christmas cheer had been overdone.

City enthusiasm for the traded options market is very much in evidence these days, with some observers estimating that 1986 will bring regular 50,000-contracts-a-day volume. In the meantime, the LTO is suffering with the rest of the Square Mile from seasonal slack. Yesterday the LTO nudged up the relatively low total of 12,675 contracts traded, with just two options breaking the four-figure level. The stock exchange index option scored 1,770 contracts while Beecham saw volume of 1,528. There were no significant price changes on options.



IT TAKES A WINNER TO SPOT A WINNER

White City was a greyhound stadium going to the dogs. We snapped it up in 1968, paid for it in 1984, and sold it this year to the BBC for a capital profit after tax of over £20 million.

Our patience has proved profitable and our timing instinctively right.

Even without the White City success, we can declare our best ever half-year results.

Results achieved by a new generation in property leadership.

Stock Conversion PLC

A NEW GENERATION IN PROPERTY LEADERSHIP

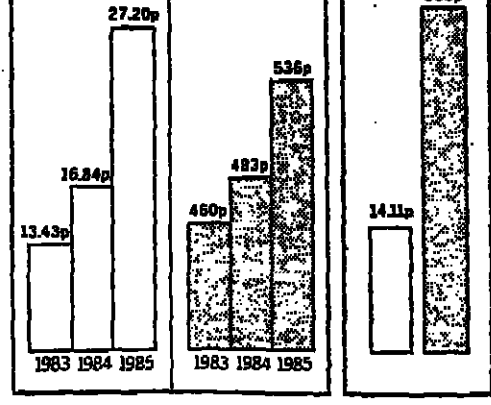
ANOTHER RECORD HALF-YEAR

RESULTS 6 MONTHS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER

£000's	1985	1984	INCREASE
Profit before taxation	£12,140	£9,483	28%
Profit after taxation	£7,386	£5,178	43%
Dividend per share	3.5p	2.5p	40%
Realised capital profit after taxation	£20,809	£719	

EARNINGS PER SHARE ASSETS PER SHARE E.P.S.

YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH HALF YEAR TO 30.9.85



APPOINTMENTS

Touche Ross & Co: Mr Martin Clarke has been appointed partner responsible for the Bracknell, Crawley, Dartford, Havant and Jersey offices. He remains national director of resource development.

Merck Sharp & Dohme: Mr Bernard J. Crowley becomes chairman of Merck Sharp & Dohme (Holdings). Mr Anthony J. Graham has been made managing director. Merck Sharp & Dohme (UK) and vice-president Merck Sharp & Dohme (Europe).

Kleinwort Benson: Mr K. S. McCormick and Mr Hugh Trenchard have been appointed directors. Mr P. E. Churchill-Coleman, Miss R. Headley-Miller, Mr C. D. Kirkness, Mr J. S. Virdee, Mrs L. M. Watts and Mr D. S. Solly become assistant directors. Mr B. P. White has been made a director of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management and Mr A. C. Begg, Mr C. L. Bennett and Mr D. Loffstadt become assistant directors.

Barbour Index: Mr Tony Wall and Mr David MacMillan become directors of Barbour Microfilms.

Lazard Brothers: Mr P. J. Hulse, Mr P. N. Quinnen and Mr M. J. Westworth-Waites have been appointed directors of Lazard Securities.

Andrew Weir London: Mr Michael W. Good becomes managing director and Mr Ben Ileson deputy chairman.

The Plastics and Rubber Institute: Dr Anthony Challis has been elected president and Mr Harry Kleesman chairman of the council.

BMP business: Mr Nigel Linacre has become account director and Mr Nicholas Miles public relations director.

Spear & Jackson International: Mr Hugh Neill joins the board as chairman and Mr Peter Bullock becomes managing director.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Issue	Price
Albion Meat Products	5p Ord (180)	150p
Ashley (Lanes)	5p Ord (150)	150p
Cable & Wireless	5p Ord (200)	300p
Chambers Securities	25p Ord (600)	60p
Cherry Foundation	5p Ord (100)	100p
China & Eastern	50p Ord (750)	75p
Crest Assets	75p Ord (250)	250p
Crest	5p Ord (100)	100p
Dialene	25p Ord (100)	250p
Diageo	10p Ord (500)	500p
15 Technology	10p Ord (100)	100p
Marshall	10p Ord (100)	100p
Midland Brown	10p Ord (100)	100p
Midland & Chase	10p Ord (100)	100p
S & C International	10p Ord (100)	100p
SPP	10p Ord (100)	100p
Technical	10p Ord (100)	100p
Technical	10p Ord (100)	100p
Underwoods	10p Ord (100)	100p

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/2%
Adams & Company	11 1/2%
BCCI	11 1/2%
Chubb Bank	11 1/2%
Consolidated	11 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares bounce back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 9. Dealings End, Dec 20. \$ Contango Day, Dec 23. Settlement Day, Jan 6.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.
 You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Value	10.00	9.50	11	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Value	10.00	9.50	12	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Value	10.00	9.50	13	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Value	10.00	9.50	14	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Value	10.00	9.50	15	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Value	10.00	9.50	16	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Value	10.00	9.50	17	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Value	10.00	9.50	18	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Value	10.00	9.50	19	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Value	10.00	9.50	20	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Value	10.00	9.50	21	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Value	10.00	9.50	22	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Value	10.00	9.50	23	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Value	10.00	9.50	24	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Value	10.00	9.50	25	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Value	10.00	9.50	26	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Value	10.00	9.50	27	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Value	10.00	9.50	28	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Value	10.00	9.50	29	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Value	10.00	9.50	30	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Value	10.00	9.50	31	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Value	10.00	9.50	32	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Value	10.00	9.50	33	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Value	10.00	9.50	34	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Value	10.00	9.50	35	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Value	10.00	9.50	36	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Value	10.00	9.50	37	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Value	10.00	9.50	38	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Value	10.00	9.50	39	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Value	10.00	9.50	40	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Value	10.00	9.50	41	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Value	10.00	9.50	42	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Value	10.00	9.50	43	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Value	10.00	9.50	44	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Value	10.00	9.50	45	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	Value	10.00	9.50	46	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	Value	10.00	9.50	47	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	Value	10.00	9.50	48	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39	Value	10.00	9.50	49	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	Value	10.00	9.50	50	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend
 Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

BRITISH FUNDS
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

UNDATED
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDEX-LINKED
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

PROSPECTIVE YIELD (based on projected inflation rate 3.5% at 5% and 6% 10%)

BREWERIES
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

ELECTRICALS
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS E-K
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS L-R
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS S-Z
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

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2	Value	10.00	9.50	12	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Value	10.00	9.50	13	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Value	10.00	9.50	14	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Value	10.00	9.50	15	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Value	10.00	9.50	16	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Value	10.00	9.50	17	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Value	10.00	9.50	18	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Value	10.00	9.50	19	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Value	10.00	9.50	20	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Value	10.00	9.50	21	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Value	10.00	9.50	22	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Value	10.00	9.50	23	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Value	10.00	9.50	24	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Value	10.00	9.50	25	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Value	10.00	9.50	26	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Value	10.00	9.50	27	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Value	10.00	9.50	28	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Value	10.00	9.50	29	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Value	10.00	9.50	30	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Value	10.00	9.50	31	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Value	10.00	9.50	32	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Value	10.00	9.50	33	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Value	10.00	9.50	34	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Value	10.00	9.50	35	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Value	10.00	9.50	36	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Value	10.00	9.50	37	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Value	10.00	9.50	38	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Value	10.00	9.50	39	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Value	10.00	9.50	40	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Value	10.00	9.50	41	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Value	10.00	9.50	42	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Value	10.00	9.50	43	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Value	10.00	9.50	44	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Value	10.00	9.50	45	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	Value	10.00	9.50	46	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	Value	10.00	9.50	47	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	Value	10.00	9.50	48	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39	Value	10.00	9.50	49	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	Value	10.00	9.50	50	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BUILDING AND ROADS
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS E-K
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS L-R
 1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS S-Z
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INDUSTRIALS
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1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
398	98	94	Southport	36	8.2	21.1
99	98	94	Hi Telecom S&P	36	8.3	52
100	98	94	Brown Bros Merc	36	1.8	23.3
97	97	93	Chesapeake	36	1.9	16.6
97	97	93	CASE	124	1.9	16.6
97	97	93	Chesapeake	124	1.9	16.6
97	97	93	Chesapeake	124	1.9	16.6
97	97	93	Chesapeake	124	1.9	16.6
97	97	93	Chesapeake	124	1.9	16.6
97	97	93	Chesapeake	124	1.9	16.6
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97	97	93						

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Rich pickings in the run-up to revolution

By Judith Huntley

Revolutionary movements in the property world in 1985 are likely to lead to sweeping changes in the market in the coming year.

Chartered surveyors, for instance, are facing the biggest shake-up in their history. The cosy world of the partnership may be swept aside as firms become limited liability companies - a move made pressing by increasing competition from the merchant banks and financial conglomerates forming as part of the City of London's own financial revolution.

The change is spurred on by swelling rises in the price of professional indemnity premiums, a phenomenon not helped by Electricity Supply Nominees' legal dispute with Richard Ellis over the Trocadero scheme in London's Piccadilly Circus.

The City of London has certainly set the pace this year, with developers filling out themselves with large schemes providing expensive trading floors for the seemingly endless supply of wealthy tenants.

Property companies with such projects have seen their shares, unlike those of most others in the sector, trading at a premium, not a discount, to assets. But how much longer can this go on?

Admittedly the City is experiencing real rental growth for the first time in at least a decade. But top rents are still only between 65 and 70 per cent of the way to matching those obtained in 1973, allowing for inflation.

Once the banking combines have been satisfied, the demand for huge buildings in the City will diminish.

The effect of catering for the City's big bang has filtered through to the property investment market. This year has seen the emergence of novel forms of short-term funding, with the banks to the forefront in putting up construction money.

But they will want that money back and as yet no one has solved the problem of how

to sell such large investments. Norwich Union cannot buy every such scheme despite its avowed intent of putting £200 million a year into property.

Next year is likely to see some kind of new investment vehicle for selling expensive developments, whether they be City offices or any of the plethora of retail schemes across the country. And the retail sector itself is undergoing fundamental and far-reaching change.

Hardly a day goes by without an announcement of a new retail project. These range from retail warehouses, which have given Peel Holdings such a high rating, through big out-of-town developments to make shopping a play day for the family, to the traditional town centre scheme or refurbishment.

The property world's enthusiasm for retailing showed no bounds this year as credit and higher disposable income for the employed kept the sector a high performer.

In the longer term some of the heat will go out of this market. And the proliferating plans for retail warehouse parks, preferred by the retailers, puts a question mark over the value of free standing retail warehouses in not-so-hot locations.

The high-tech sector is another open to debate. One firm of agents casts serious doubt over the demand and rental prospects for such schemes. But others operating in the Thames Valley, an area of high demand, say there is a huge pent-up requirement for the hybrid buildings running into millions of square feet.

Again the scarcity value of good quality, well-located developments resulted in optimistic forecasts on rents in 1985.

If the Use Classes Order is revised next year as seems likely, that scarcity could disappear. But if the demand is as strong as some suggest, the sector will continue to be one of the strongest in the patchy and selective markets which characterized 1985.

RUGBY UNION: WING HAS JUST A PRAYER OF PLAYING THIS SEASON

Ireland may have to do without Crossan

By George Ace

Keith Crossan, the Ulster and Irish left wing, is almost certain to miss the entire international season. He sustained a jaw fracture following a tackle in the last provincial game between Leinster and Ulster at Lansdowne Road last Saturday week.

Initial medical opinion was that there was every possibility of him playing in Ireland's opening fixture against France in Paris on February 1. But now he has been advised not to play at any level until the end of February, which will rule him out not only of the match in Paris but also the games against Wales at Lansdowne Road and against England at Twickenham. In those circumstances his availability for the final game in the five nations championship against Scotland in Dublin on March 15 must be extremely doubtful.

"I am not hopeful of pulling out of the injury this season," Crossan said through his clamped jaws yesterday. "I will have to make the best of it." He is due to have some of the wire removed from his jaw on January 2, and has the remainder will be taken out the following week.

Crossan, first capped for the Ireland team in 1982, has been an Irish regular for the past two seasons and is arguably the best left wing in the home countries. His blistering pace and sound defence allied to his ability to cover across the field put him in a different class to any other left wing in Ireland.

Paul Haycock, the Tyneside and Leinster wing who is in the Ireland team that meets the Combined Provinces at Lansdowne Road on January 4, is the likely choice now to play against France. But he may, before the season is out, come under pressure from Roger Anderson, the London Irish wing.

Anderson played last season for Ballymena before taking a business appointment in London. He plays on the right wing for London Irish but prefers the left flank. He created a favourable impression when he came on as substitute for David Irlwin in the game against Connacht in Galway last month.

Only just turned 21, Anderson has pace and potential to burn. He will have an opportunity to display his talents when Ulster meet Des Moines at Ravenhill on January 14. He is on the replacements panel for the January 4 game, which is in essence the final Irish trial.



Crossan: wing with a broken jaw.

Jones sees world tournament as a financial lifeline

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The Hong Kong international seven tournament will be held on April 5 and 6 next year, by which time we should all be thoroughly familiar with the dates and venues for matches in the inaugural world tournament, to be held in Australia and New Zealand in 1987. The two events were linked in typically mysterious manner by Alan Jones, the Welsh coach, who said that the World Cup is about the brotherhood of rugby, just like the Hong Kong seven.

Far from being one of the trite generalizations to which some rugby administrators are prone, it is peculiarly important that Jones's statement remains true and that, while the marketing fever set about raising the £42.5 million from sponsors and television companies, the world's best rugby players retain fraternal feelings and their amateur status.

British Land already has a half share, with Wereldshare, the Dutch developer, in a 139,000 sq ft office building in the Rue du Faubourg St Honoré. The company is back in the Paris market, like several other British developers including Hammerson, after a long absence.

British Land developed and sold more than 300,000 sq ft of space in Paris, Lyon and Lille in the 1970s.

Standard Chartered Bank is to sub-let just under half the space in the £52 million development of its Hong Kong headquarters. The new offices will have 227,000 sq ft of space on 31 floors and will be completed by 1990. The bank will be a let space until it needs to occupy more of the building itself or it may offer investors the chance to buy a subsidiary leasehold interest in the project.

Ariel International, the associate company of George Wimpey, has finally disposed of its property portfolio in France, Germany and Holland to Larum Investments, a Dutch company, for 183 million guilders (£44 million). The cash will be used to discharge £22 million of loans related to the properties.

BRITISH SUGAR: For the year to Sept. 29, with figures in £000, turnover was 637.7 (617.2), while the pretax profit was 55.6 (61.7). Earnings per share were 7.3p (8.9p). The company is a subsidiary of S. & W. Bristow.

A AND M GROUP: For the year to Sept. 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 3,875 (3,596), while the pretax profit was 1,079 (995). Earnings per share were 8p (3.4p). A final dividend of 1p (1.5p) is being paid, making a total of 1.53p (1.53p).

WILLIAM COOK & SONS (SHEPHERD): For the half-year to Sept. 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 1,377 (1,356), while the pretax profit was 497 (304). Earnings per share were 5.96p (3.34p). An interim dividend of 1.75p (1.1p) is being paid.

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England to delay team selection

England's selectors have delayed announcing the side to play Wales on January 18 until New Year's Eve. The plan had been to choose the side as soon as the selectors could meet after the end of the divisional championship this weekend.

This has now been changed following the cancellation of the first of three scheduled squad sessions, on December 29. The other two sessions on January 5 and January 12 will go ahead.

But it's not for prestige. We only have two states where rugby flourishes; the others need support and there are lots of other sports in the same market-place.

It is the kind of hard-nosed attitude to which British must become accustomed, yet it does not mean that the World Cup is the road to red ruin and professionalism. One of Rugby Union's most marketable commodities is the amateur concept, built into its "constitution". The cautious approach of the four home unions to 1987 is embodied by Ireland, who have demanded that the International Rugby Football Board rules on amateurism be strictly followed.

Jimmy Nelson, the IRFU treasurer, said: "What we are fighting is of extra payments to players, maybe coming from outside interests and nothing to do with rugby. We have no objection as a union to countries participating in such an event and particularly to the North Island, these Kiwis could get a fair share of the profit."

"If there is any in my opinion the amount of cash capable of being raised must be exaggerated. For instance, when Ireland visited Japan this year, it cost the union about £30,000 in preparations before we arrived. That sort of expenditure is going to cut into the profits of the World Cup."

Australia didn't get a cent from the 1984 tour to Britain and Ireland. We didn't get anything from our tour this year, when Fiji and Canada came. In 1986 we have to raise dough. It's not for prestige. We only have two states where rugby flourishes; the others need support and there are lots of other sports in the same market-place.

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TENNIS

Sweden to gamble on Jarryd fitness

Munich (Reuters) - Sweden, the defending Davis Cup champions, yesterday took a gamble for the final against West Germany starting on Friday by not naming a replacement for Anders Jarryd, whose chances of playing are virtually nil because of injury.

The Swedish coach, Hans Olsson, said that he would not replace Jarryd before the deadline for nominations, and would name the doubles pairings until an hour before Saturday's match.

"Jarryd is the most experienced member of the team," Olsson explained. "He and Edberg form one of the best doubles partnerships in the world. Even if there is only a slight chance that Jarryd can play, I must take that risk."

Jarryd, aged 24, was unable to train again yesterday, although he did watch the morning's practice and said he was improving.

Asked about the risk of going into the final with only three fit players, Olsson replied: "It's very unlikely that two others will get injured. But if they do, this is my last press conference."

Sweden's Edberg, the Australian Open champion, and Mats Wilander will play the singles, with Jarryd and Olsson in the doubles. If Jarryd does not play, they are an experienced pair who won the Italian Open this year, although they have not played together in the Davis Cup.

Jan Gunnarsson had been expected to be nominated as Jarryd's replacement.

After both teams' criticism of the court, the lighting has been improved and the painted lines polished.

BOXING

McGuigan gives up British title

Barry McGuigan has relinquished the British featherweight title - only hours before news of his proposed defence against Jim McDonnell was due to be opened. His manager, Barney Eastwood, has told the British Boxing Board of Control that McGuigan has accepted British title commitments would interfere with the boxer's intentions in other directions.

With a world title defence against Fernando Soza, of Argentina, already booked for Dublin on February 17 and a super-featherweight bout against Wilfredo Gomez in the pipeline for May, McGuigan could not undertake a British title commitment before mid-October, and he has decided to give up the title for a mandatory defence of his WBA title in June or soon after.

The British title will now be contested by McDonnell, who also holds the European championship that McGuigan relinquished earlier. McDonnell is the winner of a final eliminator between John Feeley and Robert Dickie.

Kaylor pulls out of title bout

By George Ace

Herol Graham has been left free to concentrate on his European middleweight title ambitions following Mark Kaylor's decision yesterday to withdraw from the bout.

And with Graham's future in mind, Barney Eastwood, Barry McGuigan's manager, and Paddy Byrne, his matchmaker, made the journey to Italy yesterday to take in tonight's European middleweight title bout in Ancona between Ayub Kalule, the holder, and Samba Kalanbay, the challenger.

Eastwood has a £60,000 bout on his hands scheduled for early February between Graham, who he managed, and Kalule for the European title. He will therefore be able to assess Kalule's form and he will be on the spot to open negotiations with Kalanbay and his mentors should Kalule be relieved of his title.

Jones's point remains valid. The game in his country needs money, as it does in North America, in Romania and in so many of the developing countries who have not been invited to contest the Webb Ellis Trophy, but for whom there may be financial assistance as a result of the tournament. In that respect it may be as blatant a money-raiser as it wishes. For Sir Desmond Sullivan, the executive director of the tournament, may think about employing an Irish accountant when the books come to be audited.

SKIING

Oxford succeed in three events

Val d'Aire - Oxford had the better of the Guinness University slalom here, winning both individual titles through Jean de Pourtales (Mentor) and Jan Rowley (Somerville) - and the men's team event (a Special Correspondent writes). In the ladies competition, however, Cambridge won more consistent team.

RESULTS: Individual: Men: 1, J. de Pourtales (Oxford); 2, J. Rowley (Oxford); 3, J. Rowley (Oxford); 4, J. Rowley (Oxford); 5, J. Rowley (Oxford); 6, J. Rowley (Oxford); 7, J. Rowley (Oxford); 8, J. Rowley (Oxford); 9, J. Rowley (Oxford); 10, J. Rowley (Oxford); 11, J. Rowley (Oxford); 12, J. Rowley (Oxford); 13, J. Rowley (Oxford); 14, J. Rowley (Oxford); 15, J. Rowley (Oxford); 16, J. Rowley (Oxford); 17, J. Rowley (Oxford); 18, J. Rowley (Oxford); 19, J. Rowley (Oxford); 20, J. Rowley (Oxford); 21, J. Rowley (Oxford); 22, J. Rowley (Oxford); 23, J. Rowley (Oxford); 24, J. Rowley (Oxford); 25, J. Rowley (Oxford); 26, J. Rowley (Oxford); 27, J. Rowley (Oxford); 28, J. Rowley (Oxford); 29, J. Rowley (Oxford); 30, J. Rowley (Oxford); 31, J. Rowley (Oxford); 32, J. Rowley (Oxford); 33, J. Rowley (Oxford); 34, J. Rowley (Oxford); 35, J. Rowley (Oxford); 36, J. Rowley (Oxford); 37, J. Rowley (Oxford); 38, J. Rowley (Oxford); 39, J. Rowley (Oxford); 40, J. Rowley (Oxford); 41, J. 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EQUESTRIANISM

Burghley loses its director as Stratton is asked to step down

By Jenny MacArthur

Charles Stratton, the director of Burghley Horse Trials in Lincolnshire, has had to step down from the position he has held since 1978. His successor will not be announced until spring. Mr Stratton had open heart surgery in 1978 and further heart trouble just before Burghley this year. He will be a consultant to the trials.

Sir Giles Floyd, the chairman of the trials, said: "I am very sad that, for health reasons, Charles Stratton, who has enormously expanded the profile of the event, should have to stand down."

Hugh Neill, the chairman of the British Horse Society horse trials group, said: "Charles has performed a truly magnificent job in organizing the Burghley Horse Trials for the past eight years while his wife, Anne, has played a major role in looking after officials and visiting personalities. We are delighted that they will remain involved with the trials."

Mr Stratton came to Burghley after holding two key positions in equestrianism, first as deputy secretary general of the British Show-Jumping Association and then as manager of the National Equestrian Centre. His term of office at Burghley coincided with a phenomenal growth in the sport, both in the standard of competition and in the number of spectators.

"A lot of people have money as the most important factor in the running of an event," Mr Stratton said yesterday. "But I have always thought the stan-

More reserves

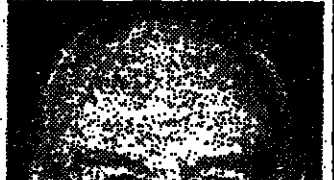
Madeleine Gurdon (Suffolk), Helen Ogden (West Yorkshire) and Anne-Marie Taylor (Northants) have all been added to the British team's reserve list of riders for the 1986 world three-day event championships in Gawler, South Australia, from May 22 to 25.

Allhusen to become president

By Jenny MacArthur

Major Derek Allhusen, one of Britain's most distinguished equestrians, is to succeed Dame Mary Colvin as president of the British Horse Society on her retirement in June 1986. He is best known in the sport for his partnership with the three-day event horse, Lochinvar, who died this year at the age of 27.

Major Allhusen had passed his fiftieth birthday when his first rode, Lochinvar, for Britain in the 1965 European championships. In the Soviet Union, where the team was the bronze medal. This was followed by the team gold and individual bronze in the 1967 European championships, the team gold and individual silver in the 1968 Olympics and the team gold again in the 1969 European championships. In 19 three-day events



Major Allhusen, tireless Lochinvar, who is by the thoroughbred, Bantur, out of a hunter mare by Isolation, jumped 800 fences and never fell.

MPs raise arms to tackle RFU

There is no direct personal connection between Nasser Bozha, the South African rugby player, and the Labour MP for Wigan. Nevertheless, the two have combined to bring out the open a rugby controversy that refuses to go away, and which is now to be taken to the floor of the House of Commons.

Bozha remains part of the South African rugby union scene, despite the fact that he has experienced recently in American football. The cause to fight last weekend when Bozha turned down an invitation to play rugby league for Warrington, a move which would have led to his banishment from rugby union in South Africa or anywhere else in the world.

At the same time, and purely by coincidence, Roger Stott, born in Rochdale and member for the Rugby League football, is rallying the support of 26 Members of Parliament for an early-day motion condemning what Stott calls "rugby apartheid", namely the continuing refusal of the Rugby Football Union to allow the movement of players between amateur rugby league and rugby union.

Among the Members of Parliament who have signed the motion are Mervyn Rees, John Ashdown, John Evans, Max Madden, Doug Hoyle and Gordon Oakes, all of whom represent northern constituencies with strong rugby league links. Significantly, a further supporter of the motion is Lewis Carter-Jones, MP for Eccles, a former Rugby Union player and rugby referee in Wales.

The Stott motion calls for the Sports Council to extend payment of grants to rugby union clubs and affiliated bodies as long as the union continues to deny the "free gateway" into rugby union for players belonging to the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Stott says: "I feel very strongly about this. A man can play soccer, cricket and gridiron football in America as a professional, and can play rugby union, but an amateur

RUGBY LEAGUE DIARY

Keith Mackinn

Rugby League player cannot do so. If we get no satisfaction from the Amateur Sports Council, then we need the New Year, being it on the floor of the House, if necessary through an amendment debate.

"This week I have received a Commons reply from the Minister indicating that in the last five years as much as £600,000 has been spent on grants to rugby union clubs and affiliated bodies. Yet the attitude of the RFU is unambiguously hypocritical in its attitude to amateur rugby league."

The door between the two rugby bodies seemed to have been slammed shut recently when a letter was sent from Bob Weighill, secretary of the RFU to the secretary of BARLA, Maurice Oldroyd, stating the union's case for continuing to oppose the free movement of players between the amateur rugby league and rugby union.

"control is necessary so that discipline can be maintained; a player would be able to skip between codes irrespective of his conduct and his disciplinary record." The letter added that "maintenance and nurturing of club loyalty and standards is a matter of importance and would be undermined by a free gateway to discourage the overplay of young players."

These reasons have not been accepted by Mervyn Rees, Stott, and a number of other Members of Parliament who have signed the motion. The letter added that "maintenance and nurturing of club loyalty and standards is a matter of importance and would be undermined by a free gateway to discourage the overplay of young players."

Fitzgerald the master planner

The highlight of Jimmy Fitzgerald's 16-year career as a trainer arrived at Cheltenham on March 14 this year. As Richard Linley, on Half Free, led the 14 survivors in the Cheltenham Gold Cup towards the second fence from home, it was obvious to watchers in the stand that Mark Dwyer and Forgive N' Forget were travelling far more easily than their opponents and that barring accidents, Fitzgerald was going to fulfil his lifetime ambition.

"I felt cold, worried and delighted," he remembers nine months later. "I haven't missed the Festival since 1974 and I'd rather win the Gold Cup than the Derby any day of the week."

A few seconds later it was all over. Forgive N' Forget quickened to take the lead at the first jump and battled his way up the hill like a tiger to repel the 16th attack of Righthand Man and Earls Grey. Two years of careful planning had reached a triumphant climax as the fans surged towards the unsaddling enclosure to greet the hero of the hour.

A man, who can regularly produce well backed winners of big races with the apparent ease of a conjuror pulling a rabbit from a hat, becomes the subject of awe to lesser mortals, and the legend of Fitzgerald's skill in this particular sphere had started a year earlier when Forgive N' Forget had landed a spectacular public gamble in the Joe Coral Golden Hurdle final.

An hour before the race the covert-coated figure of the trainer was leaning over the rail outside the weighing room. When quizzed about the favourite's chance, blue eyes scanned the surrounding Cotswold for inspiration. After a pause his steady gaze returned to rest on his interrogator. "I'd be disappointed if he got beat," he said softly.

Fitzgerald operates with as much dexterity on the flat as over the jumps. In 1984 the victory of Kaylene in the Ascot Stakes helped empty the bookmakers' satchels. And at Newmarket this autumn, Tony Murray was again in the saddle before some ante-post wagers of 25-1 were settled after the same horse had got the better of a desperate battle with Jameswood in the Cesarewitch at the starting price of 7-1.

Last month this astute Irish-born naturalized Yorkshireman was on the mark again when Galway Blaze romped home by 12 lengths in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury, breaking the track record in the bargain. This time from 8-1 the nine-year-old gelding started favorite at 11-2, despite having been absent from the track through injury for 22 months apart from a preliminary outing at Market Rasen the previous Friday.

Like all successful men Fitzgerald possessed boundless energy. I finally ran him to earth in his Georgian farmhouse, on the outskirts of Malton with its attached 75 boxes and 128 acres, last Monday night after a crowded nine days, which had included a society wedding in York Minister, lunches and dinners in Newcastle and London, four race meetings and two days' shooting.

Widely respected and popular in his adopted county, it is now 34 years since he arrived in Yorkshire from Tipperary to ride for Bobby Ryan, of Freeborough, at the age of 14. A 14-year career as a jockey included victories in the Grand Sefton at Liverpool, on Polished Steel, and



A formidable team: Fitzgerald and his Gold Cup winner, Forgive N' Forget

the Scottish Grand National on Brasher, before a fractured skull at Doncaster put him out of the game.

Even at that early stage few opportunities were let slip. "One day I was riding Brasher in the Broadway Novices' Chase. I thought I was going well enough, when Pat Taaffe tried to come barging through. Jeff King tried to squeeze him out and Pat's mount buckled over and nearly fell. But the brute just gave a shake of his head and galloped on to win by 20 lengths. That horse's name was Arkle and before I left the weighing room, I backed him to win the following season's Gold Cup."

The trainer is keenly aware that value for money is the name of the betting game. "Fiddler Goodwill once told me 'Never bet at shorter than 4-1 and always try to find three or four of these lads. I had 67 winners in 1984 and only backed six of them'."

The trainer's second wife, the former Jane Leggett, whom he married seven years ago, is a tower of strength in the set-up. A sound judge of form and breeding, she learnt her trade from her mother, Belle, who trained winners under permit in Scotland. Mrs Fitzgerald is no mean rider and was lady point-to-point champion in the North in 1978. At present she is nursing a three-month old baby, Kirsty, who is the apple of her 50-year-old father's eye.

Timmy, the trainer's 23-year-old son from his first marriage, is one of the two assistant trainers, the other being Arthur Freeman's son, Edward. The cool and stylish Mark Dwyer is the No. 1 stable jockey with Ron O'Leary acting as a more than able deputy.

Of the stable stars Galway Blaze is to have his sights raised by tackling Burrough Hill Lad and Combs Ditch in the King

George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. "From the handicap point of view it's the wrong thing to do," the trainer explained. "But he's a difficult horse to keep sound so we might as well try and strike when the iron is hot. He's a pretty good horse and Door Latch didn't exactly do the Hennessy form any harm at Ascot last Saturday."

If all is well Forgive N' Forget attempts to repeat last year's victory in the Rowland Merick Handicap at Wetherby the same afternoon, where is set to concede 20lb to Door Latch. "I never really wanted to send him to Kempton. Apart from it not really being his track, it's difficult to have a horse 100 per cent for the King George and the Gold Cup as well."

Fitzgerald's handling of Forgive N' Forget for the past three seasons explains his philosophy of training and the secret of his success. Most of his fellow professionals, keenly aware of the high level of prize money even Saturday throughout the season, like to keep horses ticking over and then bring them to the boil when required. But this has never been the Irishman's way.

"If I've got a good horse, I like to lay him out for just one race, so naturally he's going to be much better on that one day than at any time if things go right. But with Forgive N' Forget you've got to be really tough on him to bring him to his peak."

Already the trainer's thoughts are turning towards Cheltenham. Like all those who dream of glory at the Mecca of National Hunt racing, Fitzgerald is part visionary and part hard-headed realist. "Of course I think about it a lot," he concluded. "It's what the season's all about. Its going to be a tough Gold Cup."

Michael Seely

Ragged Robin can complete novice double for Forster

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

Tim Forster and Hywel Davies look the train-jockey combination to follow today at Hereford where Wantage (12.30) and Ragged Robin (2.00) look poised to pull of a double.

More than useful when trained on the flat by Dick Hern, Wantage makes his jumping debut in the Coltsfoot Novice's Hurdle, carrying the colours of Lord Chelsea. He should need only to reproduce last season's unbeaten record at Windsor and York to account for Christian Schach. His stable companion Ragged Robin is napped to win the Canaway Novice's Chase even though he lacks the proven experience of Welsh Oak and Buranpouir. I'm led to believe that the talented half-brother Desert Orchid, Ragged Robin has jumped four miles and a furlong at Warwick and so earned a tilt at the Grand National itself. The way her daughter ran on to win at Wincanton at the end of October was reminiscent of her and I take her to win now from Invincible Shadow, who ran a promising race at Leicester first time out when she finished third behind Nohadudun, albeit 12 lengths in arrears.

Finally at Carlisle this afternoon Little Frenchman should be hard to beat in the Crispation Handicap Chase. At Sedgfield last month he had a tough task against Misty Spirit, judged on the way that the latter won at Kelso on Monday. His delayed return, who just pipped Misty Spirit last time out, should not manage to give 3lb to Little Frenchman now.

Course specialist Native Break will be attempting to land eighth win there in the Conifery Handicap Chase. In this instance I doubt him beating Play the Knaeve, who will be fitter and consequently sharper than when he was beaten by the latter at Worcester last month. Golden Hornet, a runaway winner in the fog at Plumpton last week, could prove his most troublesome rival.

If breeding makes the proven experience of Welsh Oak and Buranpouir. I'm led to believe that the talented half-brother Desert Orchid, Ragged Robin has jumped four miles and a furlong at Warwick and so earned a tilt at the Grand National itself. The way her daughter ran on to win at Wincanton at the end of October was reminiscent of her and I take her to win now from Invincible Shadow, who ran a promising race at Leicester first time out when she finished third behind Nohadudun, albeit 12 lengths in arrears.

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Harry Hastings held up

By Phil McLennan

Harry Hastings, impressive winner of the Worcester Crystal Supreme Novice's Hurdle at this year's Cheltenham Festival, will not return to action until February at the earliest.

John Wilson, who trains Harry Hastings at the Crisp Lodge stables in Ayr, said: "He slightly strained a suspensory ligament so we had him blistered and he's improving all the time. We're working on him every

day at a slow canter but dare not risk him yet in case he breaks down."

All being well, Wilson plans to give his Champion Hurdle hope two runs before Cheltenham, one in a minor event at Kelso and the other in a more competitive field. Despite his delayed return, the six-year-old son of Vaguely Noble remains only a 12-1 chance with leading bookmakers for the hurdling crown in three months' time.

Confidence in Corbiere

Jenny Pitman, who told everyone to get on Corbiere for the 1982 Welsh National and repeated the performance the following year with Burrough Hill Lad, believes that Corbiere can do it again in Saturday's valuable marathon at Chepstow.

"I think the 20-1 they are offering is a gift - tremendous value. He's never had a chance for two years, but with only Saturday he'll think he's been let loose. He'll think we've forgotten to put the tack on. He's an honest horse, jumps like a pig, and is in good nick," said Mrs Pitman.

His Riva Rose landed a gamble from 7-2 to 1 in the first division of the novices' hurdle at Worcester yesterday. The trainer's 19-year-old son Mark always nicely placed on the rails just behind the leaders, and was able to pick his spot between the last two flights. Riva Rose cruising eight lengths clear.

Contradicting a Cheltenham Gold Cup entry, put up the day's best performance, giving weight all round in the Prides Commercial Handicap Chase. He's back to his best now. He sweated up terribly at Chepstow after his Newbury fall, but jumped well today. I didn't see him make a mistake and he's not blowing at all," said Fulkus Walters, who will be keeping the eight-year-old gelding well good enough to have a crack at the Gold Cup.

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HEREFORD

Going good

12.30 COLTSFOOT NOVICE HURDLE (5-y-o; £836; 2m) (17 runners)

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|----|--|----|-----------|
| 1 | ATTING (C) (Wentworth) N Hurdle 11-0 | 1 | Wentworth |
| 2 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 2 | Kerry |
| 3 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 3 | Kerry |
| 4 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 4 | Kerry |
| 5 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 5 | Kerry |
| 6 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 6 | Kerry |
| 7 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 7 | Kerry |
| 8 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 8 | Kerry |
| 9 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 9 | Kerry |
| 10 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 10 | Kerry |
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| 15 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 15 | Kerry |
| 16 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 16 | Kerry |
| 17 | CHRISTIAN SCHACH (C) (Kerry) Hurdle 11-0 | 17 | Kerry |

14-15 Wantage, 3 Race, 5 ARIA, 12 Fair Charter, 8 Christian Schach, 10 Mesquita, 12 Quik Single, 10 others.

12.45 Wantage, 1.00 Good Investment, 1.30 Play the Knaeve, 2.00 RAGGED ROBIN (nap), 2.30 Filly Dollars More, 3.00 Josella.

1.0 COWSLIP SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£625; 2m) (16)

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| 1 | 00044 BLACKBURN (C) (Wentworth) Hurdle 11-0 | 1 | Wentworth |
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HEREFORD

Going good

12.30 COLTSFOOT NOVICE HURDLE (5-y-o; £836; 2m) (17 runners)

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

December 19, 1985

Teamwork is alive and well. Paradoxically, the recession encouraged it. At least this is true of management teams. I would not make the claim that such confidence for management and workforce combined, although some companies and unions have made enormous strides in creating a more co-operative and productive environment.

We have the good fortune to work with a number of the healthiest and most progressive British organizations. In the past few years they have had to face the tremendous pressures brought about by the recession. Whole departments have been axed, complete layers of management removed. Some of the most experienced and loyal managers have been casualties.

Those who remain have known at first hand what insecurity and grief there has been. Few would want to live through it again.

Yet now people say their companies are fitter, leaner and more responsive to their markets. Many managers say they are working a lot harder than before, and to better effect. There is a wry realization that in the 1970s we were self-indulgent and complacent. Throughout such household names as ICI, Cour-

tauld, Whitbread, Esso, Unigate and many others, more is being achieved with fewer managers. Teamwork is now the order of the day, for very simple reasons. When people find themselves in "reduced circumstances" they have to make the best of what they have. If they work at it they discover there is a vast reservoir of potential in themselves and their colleagues.

Often they find they can draw on one another for ideas and support. Co-operation and involvement develop naturally. Confidence grows and people begin to raise their sights. To challenge previous assumptions about what are acceptable performance levels and targets. There are several implications which are worth mentioning here.

The first is that the process I have, rather glibly, outlined can be engineered. The skills needed to make teamwork happen can be acquired through training.

We know a great deal more now about "organization development" than we did 10 years ago. There are practical, cost-effective ways of bringing about a change of attitude and behaviour among the management of a company.

It need not happen solely as a response to external pressure and "reduced circumstances". After a

Teamwork is now the key word in Britain's slimmed-down industry, helping all employees to find their potential, says Chris Coverdale



recent reorganization in Whitbread, for example, all the personnel managers in the trading division met along with our consultants to hammer out their roles and communications processes. This had a significant effect on their own and other managers' ability to adapt to the changes.

The second is that the process of change towards a more co-operative and challenge-seeking culture need not be confined to the management.

Hourly paid people have a concern about their own futures, and often nurse desires to see their own jobs being better organized, the product being of better quality, the

waste being produced and so on. There have been many successful ventures in recent years to draw on these desires. "Quality circles" have hit the headlines, and have had some well deserved successes and well publicized failures.

Good, sensible line managers who walk the job, listen to, encourage and use people's ideas to get results, too - without publicity or gimmicks.

As a result, there are implications for the jobs market. Obviously, "people" skills are now being seen by many employers as having greater relative importance than hitherto.

FIRST, selectors will want to get a clear picture of an applicant's skills at managing people. This has always been important, but more so now that subordinates' expectations about how they should be managed are higher than ever before.

They expect to be listened to, consulted and involved. They are more likely to want to know the purpose behind an instruction. At the same time they want leadership - straight answers, decisions, firmness and honesty.

SECONDLY, a person's "co-operacy" - there is no such word, but perhaps there should be - will be gauged. This is rather more than "how well will he or she fit in?", or "could we see him or her being comfortable in the managers' dining room?"

I mean by "co-operacy" a person's track record at setting up and maintaining strong co-operative relationships with other people at work. Typically these will be with subordinates, with peers, and with at least one superior.

Being a "good team person" in this sense does not mean being an easy agreeer or compromiser. Oddballs and strong individualists can work in teams too. Being able to relate to other people in a team is a very widely distributed quality, in our experience. Doing it well and consistently is less common, but it is being done.

In a research division of ICI, for example, great strides have been made (with our assistance, I ought to declare) in moulding aggressively independent graduates and PhDs into winning teams.

THIRDLY, selectors will do well to look at candidates' individual traits and thinking skills, in relation to the team of people they will be joining. Trainers use the catch-all term "process skills" to describe them.

Good teams have a balance of these skills. Too many people with keen analytical minds result in a team that finds it very difficult to turn any idea into action. Too many humanitarians, "people-first" managers will shirk unpleasant but necessary disciplinary issues. All visionaries - no plan. All planners - no vision.

A new person joining an existing team provides an opportunity to re-

examine the team's needs in this area. Its needs change as the job circumstances change, as anyone who has been involved in setting up a new venture knows - once it is up and running, quite different skills and styles of operating are called for.

A new person joining a team changes the team. The "chemistry of interaction" results in different ways of looking at, deciding, and doing things.

FINALLY, what of the "politician" in these organizations that emphasize and develop teamwork? If his hunger for personal power is very strong, he will try to oppose and undermine the team ethic. If he loses, he will probably leave.

Otherwise, the "politician" is alive and well, and working in a team. They probably value his pragmatism and street wisdom.

The ability to join and enhance teams has never been more important than for today's managers. The skills of building and maintaining productive teamwork help to produce vigorous and adaptive organizations which succeed in the marketplace.

Chris Coverdale is managing director of the Coverdale Organisation, a consultancy and training company.

Advertising ☎ 01-278 9161/5 Enquiries

PBX Professionals are you listening? We're talking the future Sales Manager: Distributors - c.£25K

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The brief will be to sell the full range of PBX products to key distributors as well as to further promote

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Salary and target related bonus will be of interest to those people currently earning in excess of £20K. A car and other benefits are provided as would be expected from one of the world's leading Communication and Computer Companies.

Send personal details, stating current remuneration and why you are right for the start of this project: L.M. Toombs, Head of Personnel, NEC Business Systems (Europe) Limited, NEC House, 164-166 Drummond Street, London NW1 3HP, or ring 01-388-6100.

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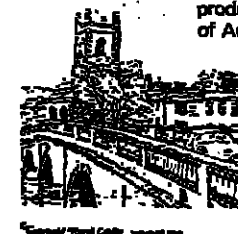
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Our client Alays is a rapidly expanding international software product company committed to the development and marketing of Ada Language Systems.



Alays has just launched an unrivalled range of Ada compilers for the Apollo, Sun, HP9000 and IBM PC-AT. Alays are looking for experienced sales executives with a record of success in the high technology software market. They will operate throughout the United Kingdom from offices in Henley-on-Thames. Benefits include excellent Pension Scheme and BUPA membership.



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The Prudential Group, the largest investment organisation and one of the most powerful financial forces in the country, also acts separately as trustee for public and private loan and debenture stock issues, private trust funds and similar matters.

This work is handled by a professional department and covers a wide range of trustee responsibilities in the corporate finance field as well as most aspects of the work of executors and trustees under wills and settlements.

A need has now arisen to strengthen the existing executive team and we are looking for young specialists preferably (though not necessarily) qualified and probably in their mid 20's to mid 30's

who can show us a good background of experience in corporate trustee work and/or executorship duties.

There are excellent opportunities for career development within the Group. Initially salaries are negotiable depending on qualifications and experience and in addition a range of benefits are offered which include low interest mortgage, non-contributory pension scheme, flexible working hours and sports and recreational facilities. Please write enclosing full CV to: Eileen Brown, Personnel Officer, Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd., 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH or telephone her for an application form on 01-405 9222 ext. 2568.

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COMPUTER AUDIT PROFESSIONALS

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City of London

Neg. to £25,000 + car

Exceptional opportunities exist to join a major international firm of Chartered Accountants and Consultants which is re-shaping its computer audit activities. Our client is in the forefront of progressive thinking in the computer audit field and wishes to recruit a number of experienced computer audit professionals from the external and internal audit community.

COMPUTER AUDIT MANAGERS - to manage the provision of computer audit and advisory services to a portfolio of clients (neg. to £25K + car).

AUDIT SOFTWARE MANAGER - to establish and maintain a team of audit software specialists involved in feasibility studies and the design and implementation of applications (neg. to £22K + car).

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Career progression opportunities are excellent and exist up to and including partner level.

For more information, please contact George Osmund B.A. (Oxon) or Stephen Hackett B.A. (Oxon) on 01-836 9501 or write with your C.V. to Douglas Lambias Associates Limited at our London address quoting reference No. 5762.

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India Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RA. Tel: 051-227 1412
113/115 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JN. Tel: 031-225 7744
Brook House, 77 Fountain Street
Manchester M2 2SR. Tel: 061-236 1553

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We are an expanding Export Finance House with capital funds in excess of £25 million and a member of the Exco Group of Companies.

We are looking for an Analyst conversant with both Corporate and Banking Credit Analyst.

The successful applicant will probably have a good degree, a strong background in Credit Assessment with a leading International Bank and a wide range of information sources at his disposal.

An excellent salary and benefits package is available and only those interested in a challenging environment should apply.

Please reply in confidence enclosing a CV to:

Mr J. A. G. WILSON,
Chief Executive,
London Forfailing Company Ltd.
1 St Katherine's Way,
London E1 9UN

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Postal Investment Management Ltd are investment managers for British Telecom and the Post Office superannuation funds with assets totalling some ten billion pounds.

Postal wishes to make a swift appointment of a qualified Librarian, to be the manager of its specialist information service. The successful applicant will have financial knowledge, and experience of management, business libraries and automated information systems.

Written applications for this post should be sent to: Task Force Pro Libra (76 Park Road, London NW1 4SH).

Task Force Pro Libra is an employment agency specialising in posts in the library/information sector. For more information contact Mary Anne Colyer. 01-723 5530.

TASK FORCE PRO LIBRA

THE MAGISTRATES' ASSOCIATION requires as its CHIEF OFFICER a SECRETARY

who will have responsibility for headquarters, administration and conduct of the Association's affairs under the direction of the Council and its Committees. The position requires integrity, proven administrative ability and knowledge of the working of magistrates' courts. Legal qualification an asset. Salary negotiable in excess of £20,000, contributory pension scheme. Full particulars and application forms, returnable by 20th January, obtainable from The Chairman.

THE MAGISTRATES' ASSOCIATION,
28 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DD
Interviews of shortlisted candidates will take place on 13th February.

AN ACCOUNTANT with experience in the retail and food sectors. Good salary and benefits. Good working conditions. Tel: 01-278 9161/5. **STOCK RECORDS & RUN** - a new book by J. J. L. Jones. 315p. £5.50. **ROSEBUD ELEGANCE** for men - a new book by J. J. L. Jones. 315p. £5.50. **THE MAGISTRATES' ASSOCIATION** - a new book by J. J. L. Jones. 315p. £5.50.

UK Management Consultancy seeks experienced Consultants

Our track record has seen us double our turnover each year for the past three years; expand our general consultancy base from commercial and manufacturing to include the Public Services sector; and to invest in new premises to meet the needs of our support team.

Now we require to recruit experienced Business Consultants to join our energetic team to allow further growth and expansion. Candidates must have a proven track record within an existing cost improvement consultancy practice. Personal presentation, motivation, and communications skills are valued as highly as skill level for these posts. Age range 26 to 44.

These are full time career positions offering the benefits of an appraisal based merit system, allowing individuals to monitor and plan their own career development leading to Profit Share, Pension Fund, BUPA, etc.

Applications should be made to Hazel Ware Brookdove Ltd, 375/385 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2HQ. Tel: 0742 755631. Please quote ref. EC1

UK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SEEKS

Business Development Consultant

To make it worthwhile our recruiting you - your salary expectation must be a minimum of £28K in the first year.

We are general management consultants with an emphasis on Cost Improvement. We require to recruit a professional sales person with experience of Board Level discussions and presentations.

The successful candidate will identify business opportunities and progress these to the point of securing agreement from a client for a study to be made of the company's business systems and of their management team.

Discipline to work within clearly defined objectives is essential.

Financial rewards are clearly based on individual effort - there is no maximum income level.

Applications to Hazel Ware, Brookdove Ltd, 375/385 Glossop Rd., SHEFFIELD, S10 2HQ. Tel: 0742 755631.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Trade 01-278 9161/5

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY CONSULTANT

Chem Systems is an international consulting group specialising in business planning for the oil, chemical and related process industries. We are seeking an additional senior consultant who can make a substantial contribution to our consulting business, particularly in the areas of supply, distribution and marketing of petroleum products.

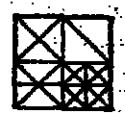
The ideal candidate will have a degree and five to ten years oil industry experience. The capability to work in a second language is desirable. He or she will also possess the following skills and personal characteristics:

- A high level of analytical and conceptual ability
- The stature and personality to deal with senior management in private and public sector organisations
- Good communication skills
- A genuine desire to develop a career in a successful consulting organisation

Chem Systems operates in a loosely structured environment where the career progress of our professional staff is limited only by individual ability and initiative. The successful candidate can expect stimulating and demanding work on a variety of projects in Europe and overseas.

An attractive salary will be offered together with competitive fringe benefits and participation in company profits.

Please write in confidence to:



The Chairman
Chem Systems International Ltd
28 St. James's Square
London SW1Y 4JH

Deputy Director (Finance)

VSO wishes to appoint a Deputy to the Director. The post combines full participation in the development and management of VSO's programme with direct responsibility for financial management.

There are currently over 1,000 experienced, qualified people working on assignments identified by VSO in 40 countries. The organisation employs 100 salaried staff in the UK and a further 100 in 25 overseas offices. The direct budget for 1986/87 will exceed £7 million based on a British government grant and voluntary contributions. This is matched against expenditure by host communities which support VSO recruits in the field.

The Deputy Director may come from any background but will be someone with imagination and the confidence to undertake financial negotiations at a high level with government and non-government agencies, in the UK and overseas. Familiarity with (though not necessarily a qualification in) accounting will be important.

The post offers exciting opportunities for someone with real vision and a commitment to overseas development work.

The terms negotiated will reflect standards in similar voluntary organisations.

The job will involve much travel and many "out of hours" commitments.

For further details and an application form please contact Alison Peach, VSO, 9 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PL. Tel: 01-235 5191. Closing date 31 December 1985.

VSO is an equal opportunities employer

Business Systems Manager

Aberdeen To £21K + Car

An outstanding opportunity has arisen within British Telecom's North of Scotland District for an ambitious and energetic manager experienced in sales and technical support of high cost telecommunications equipment in a highly competitive and dynamic marketplace.

Based in Aberdeen, the Company is one of the largest in the North of Scotland with a turnover in excess of £100m.

A Business Systems Manager is required to capitalise on the sales potential of British Telecom's products and services. The successful candidate will be the prime contact with major business customers in the district and will manage both the field sales force and technical support teams.

An impressive and proven track record in sales and marketing preferably gained within a high tech environment will be an essential requirement for the post. The ability to communicate effectively at all levels together with the drive, determination and keen

business acumen necessary for continuing success are also essential.

This challenging and demanding post carries with it an attractive remuneration package including a base salary in the order of £21K and will reflect your experience and ability. Moreover the career prospects within this highly successful organisation are excellent.

Applications in curriculum vitae form should be addressed to George Allan, British Telecom Scotland & Northern Ireland Territorial Office, PETI, Caledonian House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TH. (Telephone: 031-222 2282).

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TELECOM

CHRISTIAN AID Senior Appointment

Christian Aid invite applications for suitably qualified men or women for senior post at London Headquarters. Will lead interdisciplinary team comprising information, education, fund raising and area (UK) staff. The head of this UK and Ireland regional group will be responsible, under the Director, for Christian Aid's activities in the region and will be a member of the Staff Management team working to the Board's Executive Committee.

Qualifications: initiative and team leadership; communication skills; understanding of overseas aid / development issues acceptance and Christian Aid's theological basis and operational role; clear headed administration. Apply in writing only for job description and application form to:

Personnel Officer,
Christian Aid, P.O. Box 1,
London SW9 8BH.

Closing date 20th January 1986.

Shortlisted candidates should be available for interview on 30th January.

THE CONRAN SHOP FULL TIME VACANCIES

Due to internal promotions, the Conran Shop has two full time vacancies. The successful candidates will need to be extremely articulate and well organised. An enthusiasm for the shop and its merchandise is more important than previous retail experience as full training will be given. Please write giving an outline CV to Judith Ellis at The Conran Shop, 77 Fulham Road, London, SW3.

NUMERATE GRADUATE

Needed as trainee for leading company in the technical analysis of world stock, money and future markets. Salary £7,500 including bonus paid quarterly. Please send CV to: Peter Whiteley, Chart Analysis Limited, 7, Seaford Street, London W1.

INTERNATIONAL organisation based in London currently require a Marketing Information Officer to work in its Marketing Information Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the collection, analysis and presentation of market research data and for the development of marketing strategies. Experience of market research and marketing is essential. Salary £10,000 per annum plus benefits. Please send CV to: The Director, International Organisation, 1, Whitehall Court, London W1B 5AL.

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ORCHID TECHNOLOGY

a US based manufacturer of add-on products for the IBM PC/X... will be opening its UK office in early 1986.

We are looking for a qualified individual to head our marketing and sales operations in Europe. The candidate must have a minimum of 5 years of sales and marketing experience in the micro-computer industry, combined with a thorough knowledge of European distribution channels. It is preferred that candidate speaks at least one additional language, (French or German), and have worked for an American company in the past. We shall be setting up interviews for the early part of January in London. If interested, please send resume and salary history to:

Orchid Technology
47790 Westinghouse Drive
Fremont, CA 94539 USA
(415) 490-8586
Telex: 709289

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

United Computers requires a Technical Sales Representative with a sound knowledge of IBM and IBM compatible data processing and data communications switching systems.

The applicant must be experienced in the technical and financial aspects of switching and control systems, in addition to an understanding of the leasing marketplace and large corporate accounts.

Successful applicants should expect a remuneration in the region of £25-34,500 p.a. on target earnings plus company car.

Please send CV to Annette Pettmann,
Personnel Manager,
United Computers,
101 Wigmore Street,
London W1H 9AB.
Tel: 01-935 7104.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME The Post of GENERAL SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the full-time post of Secretary to administer the London office of the British School at Rome. Duties include the servicing of the Executive and several other committees and the organisation of the competitions for the Rome Scholarships in the humanities and the fine arts.

Salary £12,000 Age limit 35 years

Further information and application form from the Secretary,
British School at Rome,
1 Lower Gardens,
Exhibition Road,
London SW7 2AA
Tel: 01-589 3665

HUNTER MULTIFUEL HEATING

Research and Development Engineer

Aged 30 to 45, possibly a graduate, heavily worked close to the market in autonomous sections of small company environments, and who has a real understanding of the design, development and manufacturing of multifuel heating systems. This experience will probably include: design, development and manufacturing of multifuel heating systems, a high level of responsibility and communication at all levels. Salary and prospects will have a direct relationship to the nature of the successful candidate.

Reply in confidence with detailed CV and photograph to:
C. ROBERTSON,
HUNTER & SON, 15, THE SQUARE, SOMERSET BA11 2PA.

AREA MANAGER

PK ELECTRONIC is based in Hamburg, West Germany. For 20 years we have been specialists in the design, development and manufacturing of sophisticated security electronic systems. We are currently looking for young enthusiastic staff to join our international Marketing Department. Applicants must be highly motivated and have a natural ability to communicate with people at high levels.

An attractive package is waiting for the right people. If you think you have the qualities we are looking for, then telephone us on (010 39 40) 23 23 21, or alternatively write to the Managing Director, PK ELECTRONIC, Hohenbergstrasse 7A, 2 Hamburg, West Germany.



MONSIEUR, P.K. Elect. Inter. Hamburg, Allemagne 33. Tel: 01-4032304.

ADMINISTRATOR/PA

We are a small business medical electronic company & we need someone to handle a wide range of jobs & assist the Director. Duties will include: general secretarial work, office administration, answering letters, making appointments, etc. Salary £4,000 p.a. & a high standard of living in central London. The opportunity is particularly very attractive. A company car could be part of the total package.

Reply with CV to the Managing Director, Inter Systems Ltd, Elm Court, Indus 022 8LP.

TRANSPORT MANAGER

experienced Transport Manager required for position with national company. Must be confident administrator, able to handle all aspects of transport management. Salary negotiable and company car. Interviews first week in January. Please send CV to: The Managing Director, Inter Systems Ltd, Elm Court, Indus 022 8LP.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION based in London currently require a Marketing Information Officer to work in its Marketing Information Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the collection, analysis and presentation of market research data and for the development of marketing strategies. Experience of market research and marketing is essential. Salary £10,000 per annum plus benefits. Please send CV to: The Director, International Organisation, 1, Whitehall Court, London W1B 5AL.



Welsh Health Common Services Authority
Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Cyffwrdd Iechyd Cymru

Director of Information Systems and Technology

Salary: c. £20,000

As a result of a wide ranging report into the resources and requirements of the National Health Service in Wales, this new and demanding role has been created to spearhead the development of information systems and technology within the Welsh Health Common Services Authority.

Reporting on a day to day basis to the General Manager, and ultimately to the Board, your responsibilities will include the management of the Authority's computer centre, its bureau services and development staff. You will also be required to provide professional advice to District Health Authorities, Family Practitioner Committees, the Welsh Office and other Health Service bodies.

A major part of your overall brief will be the oversight and guidance of a centrally organised research and development programme. You will therefore be expected to monitor developments in information systems and communications both within and outside the Health Service, implementing those measures that will materially enhance efficiency and the standard of patient care.

The need is for a graduate with impressive professional qualifications complemented by extensive experience of information technology and systems. Whatever your background, you must be able to demonstrate recent achievements in this field, together with considerable leadership, administrative and management skills.

If you have the qualities we are looking for and feel you can meet the challenges provided by this important role then please send your CV in confidence to:

Mr. F.P. Crawley, General Manager, Welsh Health Common Services Authority, Heron House, Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1SB.

If you would like more information then please contact Mr. Crawley on 0222 499821.

Closing date for return of applications 15th January 1986.

Welsh Health

Common

Services Authority

FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING APPOINTMENTS

Trade 01-278 9161/5

Young Marketing Officer

£14-18,000 + benefits

A prime New York money centre bank with a considerable London presence is currently searching for a young marketing officer to join one of its specialist financing groups. Working as an integral member of a flexible team you will be involved in all aspects of analysis, negotiation and documentation of transactions with immediate client exposure and full client responsibility in the foreseeable future.

Candidates, aged 24-28, should have a good degree, at least 2 years' banking experience and ideally will have completed a US bank credit training programme. Strong analytical and interpersonal skills are a prerequisite, and only those with an enthusiastic and innovative approach will succeed in this demanding environment.

In the first instance applicants should contact Andrew Stewart or Fiona Collins on 01-404 5751 or write to them enclosing a full c.v. at 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



Michael Page City
International Recruitment Consultants - London Brussels New York Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

BADENOCH & CLARK

MAKING A CAREER IN COMPUTER AUDIT? LONDON To £20,000

Our client, a major firm of Chartered Accountants, has recently identified a requirement to strengthen its Computer Audit Department.

Working in a small team, you will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of systems based audits on the firms major clients, software development and troubleshooting on clients' systems.

A structured and rewarding career is offered to candidates with at least two years computer audit experience gained either within a similar department or a commercial concern.

For further details ring or write to Colin Perkins.

PARTNERSHIP ASPIRATIONS SOUTH COAST To £20,000 + Car

Are you tired of London and seemingly endless commuting? Would you like to move to the picturesque South Coast of England, but fear that the quality of life would not be matched by professionalism and challenge at work?

Due to a rapid expansion rate, our client, a genuine medium sized practice, is currently seeking several prospective general practice partners. Initially successful applicants will be expected to act as Managers, whilst proving their capability. There are, however, immediate opportunities for early partnership.

Applicants should be less than 35 years of age and should be experienced in dealing with smaller clients and have a good working knowledge of personal, partnership and basic company taxation. If you feel you would like to know more about the opportunities contact Jon Vary.

Financial Recruitment Specialists
16-18 New Bridge St, London EC4V 6AU
Telephone 01-583 0073

FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING APPOINTMENTS

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

Technicare International Limited, a subsidiary of Turiff Corporation PLC., are seeking to appoint a Commercial Manager who will be responsible to the Managing Director of the Technicare Group for the commercial, legal and accounting functions.

The Technicare Group based in Newbury comprises engineering service companies, trading in the U.K., Australia, and the Middle and Far East. The companies are primarily engaged in servicing the oil and gas industries and the activities range from the provision of consultants to the management of overseas maintenance and training contracts.

The successful applicant should have a degree in law or commerce, together with a practical knowledge of accounting including the ability to interpret accounts and the effects of currency changes.

Some commercial experience particularly in respect of overseas work is mandatory; also experience in assessing viability of diversification opportunities and acquisitions.

The position will be of interest to those who are seeking to achieve a senior position and to contribute practically to the growth of an engineering service company with several associated subsidiary companies worldwide.

Salary is unlikely to be a barrier to those with the appropriate ability and experience. The usual fringe benefits also apply.

Reply in confidence to:

The Managing Director, Technicare International Ltd., 1 Northbrook Place, Newbury, Berks. RG13 1BR.

We're big enough to get you into the big league.

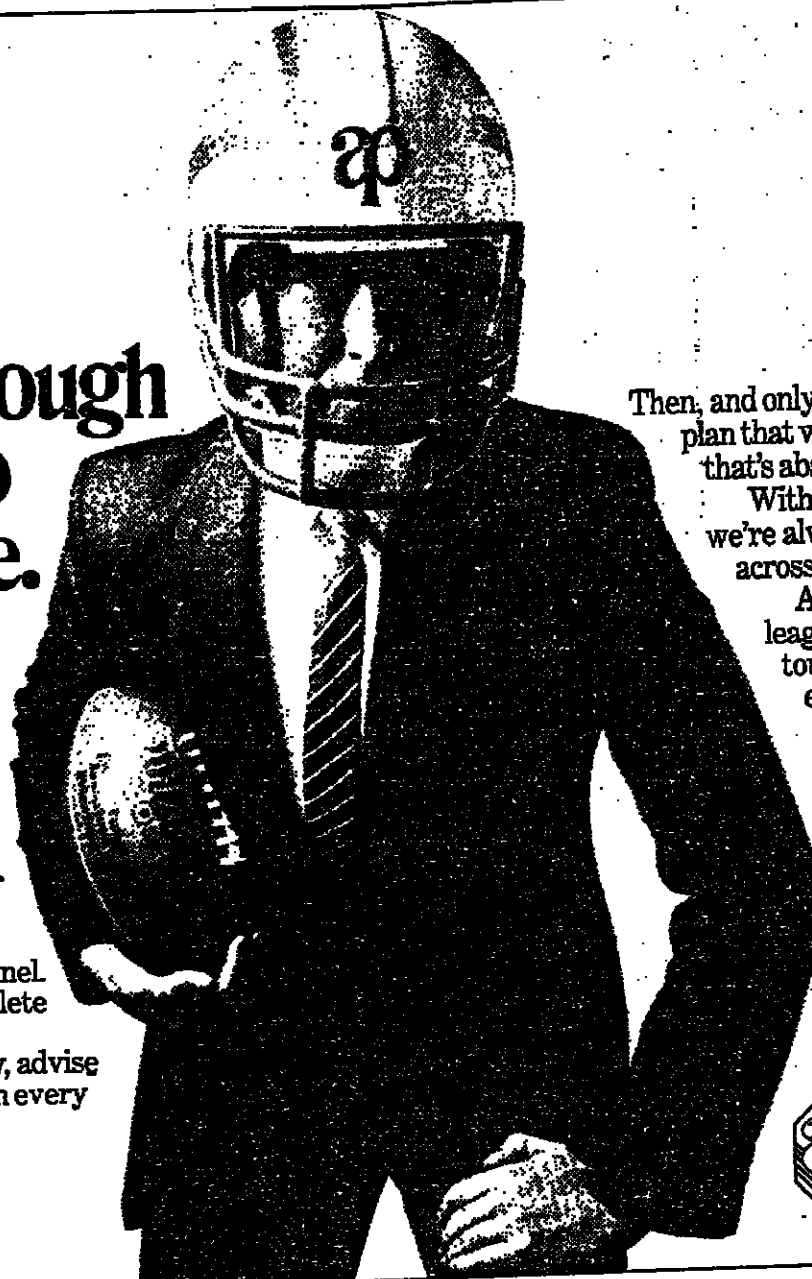
We know that good players only become star players when they play for the right team.

And that means playing in your best position and getting all the support you need from your team mates.

If you feel you've out-grown your present position, and are looking to play a bigger role elsewhere, come and talk to us at Accountancy Personnel.

Our coaching begins with a complete career consultancy service.

We listen to what you have to say, advise you, and look at your prospects from every angle.



Then, and only then, can we work out a game plan that will help you make the move that's absolutely right for you.

With 7 offices in Central London, we're always aware of the state of play across the entire financial job scene.

And being at the top of the league means we are constantly in touch with people looking for experienced professionals like yourself.

Try the jobs on the right for size and you'll see how big we're talking.

And we always have many more interesting jobs on offer.

So why stay on the sidelines? Come in and talk to us at Accountancy Personnel, with our help you can be in a different league in no time at all.



63-65 Moorgate, EC2 0L 638 3955 - 9 Eastcheap, EC3 0L 626 0666 - 307-8 High Holborn, WC1 0L 404 4561 - 110 Strand, WC2 0L 379 6716 - 14 Old Castle St., Oxford Circus, W1 0L 580 9186 - 79 New Bond St., W1 0L 493 3813 - 6 Glen Hys, Stag Pl., Victoria, SW1 0L 828 7555



You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Corporate Finance

Early responsibility for high calibre Chartered Accountants

c£17,000 + Benefits

As one of the leading consultancies in the field of banking recruitment, we are currently acting on behalf of a number of major Merchant Banks, who are seeking young Chartered Accountants for their expanding and varied Corporate Finance Divisions.

Working in small teams, the successful applicants will become involved in acquisitions, mergers, management buyouts and the various methods of capital raising, including rights issues, public floatations, USM listings etc.

Candidates will be graduates with first class professional backgrounds and should have the potential to undertake early responsibility and significant commercial involvement.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of a move into Corporate Finance, please contact Neal Wyman BSc, ACA, or Victoria Ward Krickic, Corporate Finance Division, quoting ref. 3451, at Michael Page Partnership, 39/41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, or telephone 01-404 5751. Strictest confidentiality assured.



Michael Page City
International Recruitment Consultants—London Brussels New York Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

Michael Page Partnership Recruitment Consultants

Michael Page Partnership was established in 1976 with the sole aim of becoming the most professional and effective consultancy in financial recruitment. Our unrivalled expansion leading to a USM quotation in 1983 is clear evidence of our success to date.

Continuing growth in the demand for our services has created the need to expand our consultancy teams throughout the UK.

Our consultants are expected to attain the highest professional standards in a highly competitive commercial "market place". In addition to a relevant accountancy back-

ground and/or a successful track record in executive recruitment, candidates will require superior inter-personal skills and a willingness to provide the level of commitment essential for sustained success.

In return we offer exceptional opportunities for genuinely accelerated career progression and a remuneration package geared to the reward of commitment and ability. Please write in the first instance to Richard Robinson ACMA, Managing Director, Michael Page UK Ltd, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. (Tel: 01-831 2000).



Michael Page Partnership
International Recruitment Consultants
London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

A CAREER CHALLENGE

FPS (MANAGEMENT) LTD

We have an opening for 4/5 ambitious, career-minded individuals, aged 23+, in the exciting world of finance and investment. Essentials are self-motivation, application to hard work, and ability to absorb new ideas rapidly in wide-ranging fields, including, Taxation, Investments, Insurance, Mortgage and Pensions.

This is a highly rewarding opportunity with excellent promotion prospects due to our aggressive expansion programme over the next six months.

In the first instance, please telephone or write with full CV to FPS (Management) Ltd, 12-13 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8LH.

For further details speak to

Susan Toogood 836 8131 or Mike McLeod 836 8131



Partner Search

North West

to £30,000

We are currently assisting local, regional and international practices in their search for future partners.

Outstanding graduate calibre ACA's with a minimum of 3 years' post qualification experience are required in the following specialist areas:

★ Taxation ★ Computer Audit ★ Management Services ★ Insolvency

If you are interested in discussing these senior professional opportunities, please contact David Kennedy on 061-228 0396 or write to Michael Page Partnership at Clarendon House, 81 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3LQ.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

Financial Controller

(F.D. Designate)

West Midlands

to £20,000 + Car + Benefits

Our client is a profitable subsidiary of a medium sized plc, operating in a highly competitive sector of the process industry.

An ambitious Financial Controller is currently sought to fulfil a vital role in the financial management of the company. Reporting to the Managing Director, the position carries responsibility for all financial and data-processing functions with particular emphasis on the strict control over cost of sales and the further development of M.L.S. The successful applicant will also be expected to contribute significantly to strategic planning and the overall commercial

management of the business. A board-level appointment is envisaged within 12 months. Candidates, aged 28-40, will be qualified accountants (ACA, ACMA, ACCA) with a broad-based technical background, together with genuine commercial flair and the ability to communicate at all levels. Previous experience within a multi-site processing environment would be a distinct advantage.

Interested applicants should write to Dean Gollings, quoting ref. B6187, at Michael Page Partnership, Bennetts Court, 6 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5ST.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

Personal Assistant to Vice President

Berkshire

c£18,000 + Car + Bens.

Age 24-29

The European arm of a \$5 billion US multinational foods group requires a young accountant to act as P.A. to the Company Vice President.

This dual role entails the provision of sophisticated analysis, interpretation and reporting of results from the Group's European and South American subsidiaries, as well as trouble shooting on ad-hoc projects and investigations, which will necessitate occasional overseas travel.

Aged 24-29, you must be qualified, and of graduate calibre with either broad experience gained within a large industrial company or within a professional firm. Sound knowledge of US accounting principles would be a distinct advantage together with a basic

knowledge of one or more European languages, but your personal qualities and approach are more important. To deal effectively with senior operations management, you will possess excellent inter-personal skills, commercial awareness and a pro-active approach.

If you successfully match this specification, you will enjoy an attractive salary, generous benefits including a fully-expensed car and relocation costs where appropriate, plus excellent prospects for promotion to senior status in Europe or the US.

Candidates should initially contact Juliet Connock on 0753 856151 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, Kingsbury House, 6 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING APPOINTMENTS

Trade 01-278 9161/5

Senior Financial Analyst

Bahrain c. £25,000 (currently tax free)

- Free furnished accommodation and utilities
- Excellent recreational facilities
- Free primary schooling in company school
- Generous Assistance towards secondary education for eligible children

The Bahrain Petroleum Company BSC (Closed) requires a Senior Financial Analyst to work on a variety of tasks requiring a good knowledge of analytical techniques as well as sound relevant accounting experience. Candidates must be qualified Accountants, with at least five years industrial or services related business experience. A knowledge of quantitative techniques in relation to cost/benefit analysis is essential. In addition experience of personnel benefit financing schemes would be desirable. We envisage at least a three year commitment to this married or bachelor status position and the personal qualities we are looking for are flexibility, self motivation and good communication skills.

Please send full CV to:

Personnel Relations Department
Collier (UK) Limited
Griffin House
161 Hommersmith Road,
London W6 8BS
or telephone Mrs S. Harris on 01-748 6566
quoting reference 1362.

Accountancy and Financial appointments in the South East

Our firm specialises in executive recruitment in the South East and we are currently handling on an exclusive basis a number of specific accountancy and financial appointments some of which are detailed below. We would like to hear from people who are interested in such career opportunities in the South East.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER £18,000 + car
Successful manufacturing company. Reports to Managing Director. Candidates must be qualified ACA/ACCA or ICMA. Age range probably 38-48.

FINANCIAL ANALYST £15,000
To maintain and develop financial information system involving monthly reporting, budget estimation and project investigation. Qualified (or qualified) or relevant degree/ABA in Financial discipline. Age range 25-35.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT £12,000
Ideally trained towards qualification experience in financial accounts essential. Shortly moving to competition.

Brief but comprehensive career details to: New Appointments Group, Personnel & Selection Consultants, 5 Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1DR. Telephone (0796) 75431.

new Appointments Group
Personnel Consultants

Gabriel Duffy Consultancy

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY
OF THE YEAR
CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS' POLL

GROUP TAX MANAGER £25,000 + car
Due to internal promotion a senior position has arisen within this sizeable company, a leading name in its business sector. The appointee will report to the Financial Director and will be responsible for all taxation matters as they affect the U.K. operations. Candidates should be Chartered Accountants and/or have the ATII qualification. Please contact Fran Friedman on (01) 623 3195 (day) or (01) 360 7902 (evenings/weekends).

SENIOR FINANCIAL MANAGER £20-33k + Rover
Central London based division of major blue-chip Plc seeks Accountant, 26-35, to control all finance and financial administration of its freight, transport and shipping interests. Highly computerised environment, staff control, executive-level liaison. Excellent career development potential within group. For further information contact Don Leslie on (01) 623 3195 (day) or (01) 354 5229 (evenings/weekends).

COMPUTER AUDIT £17,000
Our client, a major Plc, and a world leader in hi-technology equipment, seeks to recruit a computer auditor of the highest calibre, willing and able to meet the most demanding technical challenges. The client maintains one of the largest and most sophisticated computer networks in the country, including a number of ICL & IBM mainframes, a variety of mini computers and literally thousands of micro-computers. Applications are sought from candidates with modern auditing techniques acquired in a large computerised environment. For further details please contact Daniel Smith on (01) 623 3195 (day) or (01) 444 3559 (evenings/weekends).

Gabriel Duffy Consultancy 17 St. Swithins Lane,
Cannon Street, London, EC4N 8AL.

Graham Shore has an M.A. in Economics, Philosophy and Politics. He is 29 years of age and held a range of economic advisory appointments in various government departments before joining the management consultancy practice of Touche Ross in 1984.

Over the past 12 months his career has changed direction with an undoubted problem solving flair being successfully

employed on a variety of complex assignments. The challenge has been severe but the subsequent sense of achievement made each moment worthwhile.

A brief description of some of Graham's projects during his first year with us may help you decide if you would be interested in joining us.

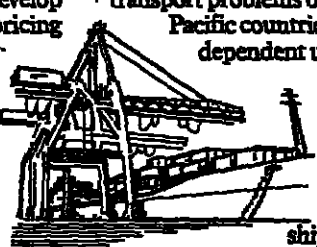


1. Nationalised industry

A strategic view of costs was needed to develop more sophisticated pricing policies. Methodology study produced and discussed with the Chairman and Board. Methodology applied to produce cost estimates.

2. South Pacific shipping

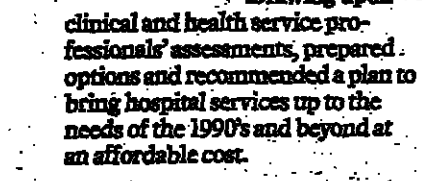
A study to overview the strategic transport problems of 20 South Pacific countries, all totally dependent upon shipping but separated by thousands of miles. Prepared analysis of common shipping problems, identifying strengths and weaknesses. Proposals formulated to improve services and efficiency.



"I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYWHERE ELSE WHERE I COULD HAVE GAINED SUCH A VARIETY AND DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IN SUCH A SHORT SPACE OF TIME."

GRAHAM SHORE

3. Local health authority
Old and outdated hospital premises and lay-out were hampering health efficiency. Drawing upon clinical and health service professionals' assessments, prepared options and recommended a plan to bring hospital services up to the needs of the 1990s and beyond at an affordable cost.



4. Video editing

A venture capital fund required visibility study of video editing facilities. Produced market analysis and researched start up proposals.



5. Timber purchasing
Asked to solve stock prediction problems of a timber importer who needed to improve foreign exchange management. Devised improved forecasting system based on timber demand analysis and external specialist advice.

If you are ready to take a closer look at management consultancy in general, and Touche Ross in particular, let's arrange an informal meeting and find out if we can offer you similar challenge and variety.



If your specialisation covers accountancy, economics, engineering or marketing and you feel you are now ready to break loose from a pure line management role, please write today with full CV and perhaps outlining why you feel you're worth up to £30,000 plus a car, to: Michael Hurton, (Ref. 2337), Touche Ross & Co., Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR. Telephone 01-353 8011.

Touche Ross
Management Consultants

CREATIVE ADMINISTRATOR with a flair for systems

£17,000 + benefits

Preparations for expanding the Society's services in 1987 have created a number of challenging and varied opportunities... none more so than this one in our growing Banking Division. Responsible for all automated credit clearing operations, you will use your creativity and initiative to review and enhance our working methods and introduce computerised banking systems, whilst ensuring we maintain our high level of productivity, efficiency and customer service.

Either a graduate or person qualified to a professional level, your administrative experience, coupled with your creativity, is crucial. Your experience in money transmission must have been gained in a large financial organisation and include at least five years in a supervisory role. Knowledge of computerised systems is essential, as are skilled negotiating and interpersonal skills. The negotiable salary is accompanied by the benefits expected of a large financial institution together with usual company benefits including relocation expenses where appropriate. Please send full career and salary details to Mr W Whitehead, Abbey National Building Society, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.



Equity Specialists

£15,000-£100,000

As leaders in the field of investment recruitment, the Investment Division of Michael Page City act on behalf of a broad range of stockbrokers and institutions, both U.K. and internationally based. Current market activity has resulted in excellent opportunities for experienced individuals at all levels in the areas of:

- Research
- Institutional Sales
- Fund Management
- Marketing

If you are looking for a career move, or simply wish to be kept informed of market developments, please contact Timothy R. Wilkes or Anna Robson at the Investment Division, 39/41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, or telephone 01-404 5751. All replies will be treated in strictest confidence.



Michael Page City

International Recruitment Consultants - London Brussels New York Sydney

A member of the Addison Page PLC group

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Trade 01-278 9161/5

Personal Assistant

£12,000 Neg

The French director and owner of a successful film production company specialising in TV commercials is creating a London office. You will be working from a private home in Regent's Park and running the business occasionally on your own self-employment. Strength of character and previous experience in advertising or a related field is essential. French an advantage. Salary 12,000 p.a. 01-483 5907 01-483 8952

Senior Secretaries

Exec PA to Vice-President

£13,000 Neg

A new position has arisen due to the opening of the European headquarters in London of a major American computer corporation. The candidate must have a sound commercial and business background, worked at main board level, have first class oral and written communication skills and a strong personality with a flexible approach to hours and work. Age 25-35. Salary 13,000 p.a. 01-483 5907 01-483 8952

Senior Secretaries

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

has a vacancy for

A SECRETARY TO THE REGISTRAR

AGED 25+ Circa £8,500 p.a.

We seek a well presented, well educated and highly motivated person for this important post. In addition to excellent secretarial skills, the successful applicant will be required to handle administrative responsibilities within the Registrar's Department. Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (3.30 hour week) 22 Days Holiday. Free 3 Courses Lunches. Alternative Office overlooking Regent's Park, 3 minutes walk from Great Portland Street and Regent's Park underground stations. Salaries (subject to annual and cost of living reviews) according to age and experience on University Scale. Please write with c.v. or telephone the Office Manager for an application form: RCP, 11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE. Tel: 01-535 1174.

SECRETARY

Major International Ltd, a leading firm of international executive search consultants, requires a first class secretary with top quality organisational skills, initiative & good educational background. The salary package includes 4 weeks holiday & medical insurance. Please write, enclosing a CV, to: Mr Nicholas Jones, Company Secretary, 14 Grosvenor Place, London W1X 7HL. 01-225 9514

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

wanted by small firm of Chartered Surveyors near Charing Cross. Experienced person able to deal with variety of work in friendly environment. Salary c. £8,000 p.a. Two part-time considered. Apply Spratley & Company, 25/24 Craven Street, London, W02N 8NP. 01-600 8893.

ACCOUNTANTS BOOK-KEEPERS AUDITS/TAX STAFF

For the best temporary assignments call Barbara Kerton at: H. W. Task Force Ltd 118 New Bond St., W1 493 9441 Open Late Tonight

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Health Board

Medical Practice Vacancy - Saltsloots

Applications are invited from suitably qualified medical practitioners for a single handed medical practice in Saltsloots.

The practice list size is currently 919 patients. Surgery premises may be available for purchase and a health centre is due for completion in 1988.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Primary Care Administrator, 56 London Rd, Kilmarnock, Tel. Kilmarnock (0553) 22218 Closing date for applications 15th January 1986

CREME DE LA CREME

Sales/Promotions

Young, attractive, outgoing individuals needed to promote new holiday concept from London office. Must be enthusiastic and enjoy meeting people. Background in sales or travel industry helpful. Apply with full CV to: Vale de Lobo Holiday Club, 31 St George Street, London, W1.

1986 ANTIQUE

£12,500 + ++

This individualistic entrepreneur who deals in art and property in the heart of the West End needs an equally free thinking PA to help him run his business interests. A good all rounder with an easy manner and confidence in dealing with his numerous clients is essential, as is a clean licence. Age 25-35. Speeds 120/60. West End Office 629 9636

ANGELA MORTIMER

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

LONDON BOROUGH'S TRAINING COMMITTEE (SOCIAL SERVICES)

Director of Training

Salary £24,207 - £25,827 inclusive

This is a unique opportunity for an innovator in the training field to lead a central organisation serving London's Health and Social Services Authorities and Voluntary Organisations.

Applicants must be professionally qualified graduates and have a knowledge of applying new technology to management and training, and a good understanding of the Public Sector.

The work includes a high level of liaison to facilitate co-operation with Statutory Training Councils, Central Government departments, education establishments and Voluntary Bodies and candidates must be able to demonstrate considerable experience in this area.

Application forms and further details from: Head of Administration (GRV/DY/85), London Borough's Training Committee, 9 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SN.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS: 10 JANUARY, 1986.



St. Christopher's Hospice

ADMINISTRATOR

St. Christopher's Hospice is an established medical and Christian foundation in South East London. Our present Bureau/Administrator is moving to a new post, which has created the need for this senior appointment.

Key responsibilities of the position include: financial control, financial reporting, general administration, personnel management and fund raising plus the duties of Company Secretary. The negotiable salary will reflect both experience and qualifications.

For a full job description please send your c.v. to: The Medical Director, St. Christopher's Hospice, 51/53 Laverie Park Road, Sydenham, SE28 6DZ.

Ambitious Young Accountants

To £18,000 Central London

For one of the world's largest and most dynamic oil companies engaged in all major activities within the oil and petroleum industry.

- Working in a small team environment the company offers:
 - Rapid promotion opportunities.
 - Positive career development.
 - Exposure to all accounting areas.
- This outstanding opportunity is only open to young qualified accountants with strong interpersonal skills, enthusiasm and the commitment that is required of tomorrow's Senior Managers.
- The company is an equal opportunity employer and positively welcomes applications from men and women and members of ethnic minority groups.

Please send your career details in strict confidence to David G Rush quoting reference 6613.

Hervyn Hughes
Alexandre Pic
(Internationals) Ltd.
Management Recruitment Consultants



57 Golden Square,
London W1R 4AN.
Tel 01-434 4091

Heseltine's draft European helicopter deal

By Our Political Editor

The text of the draft agreement for joint European manufacture of helicopters, which Mr Heseltine has negotiated with his French, German and Italian opposite numbers, was published yesterday by the Commons Defence Committee, on the grounds that a better understanding was necessary of the defence implications of the Westland decision.

Part of the text follows: Ministers noted the substantial history of European collaboration. In 1978, the Defence Ministers of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom signed a Declaration of Principles in which they expressed the intention to work together to develop and produce new helicopters, including their engines and equipment.

Since these arrangements substantial progress has been made. In the 13-tonne class a bilateral programme has been set up between Italy and the United Kingdom. Known as EH101, this helicopter will have anti-submarine warfare, utility and commercial versions.

In the 8-9 tonne class feasibility studies have commenced of a helicopter known as NH90 under a memorandum of understanding signed by the four national armament directors, with their Netherlands colleagues.

In the light attack helicopter class there are two European programmes. In 1984, France and Germany signed a memorandum

of understanding and placed contracts for the development of the PAH2 battlefield helicopter. In Italy, the A129 anti-tank helicopter is undergoing flight testing and an initial production order has been placed. Discussions are taking place between Italy, the UK, the Netherlands and Spain concerning the development of a further version of the A129 to meet future battlefield needs.

Ministers decided that it was important to consolidate national requirements and to provide further for a strong and viable European helicopter industry. They agreed to build on success in harmonizing the requirements in their 13 and 8-9 tonne classes, and noted that it would be greatly preferable to achieve a single battlefield helicopter to meet requirements from 1993 onwards.

Ministers agreed that the economies from the development and production of a single European battlefield helicopter could make funds available for the enhanced procurement of programmes in production.

It was decided that the European helicopter industry will be strengthened if a clear European preference is restated. They agreed in reaffirming their commitment to the Declaration of Principles that the needs of their forces within the three classes should be covered solely in future by helicopters designed and built in a cost-effective way in Europe.

Westland signs rescue deal with Sikorsky

Continued from page 1

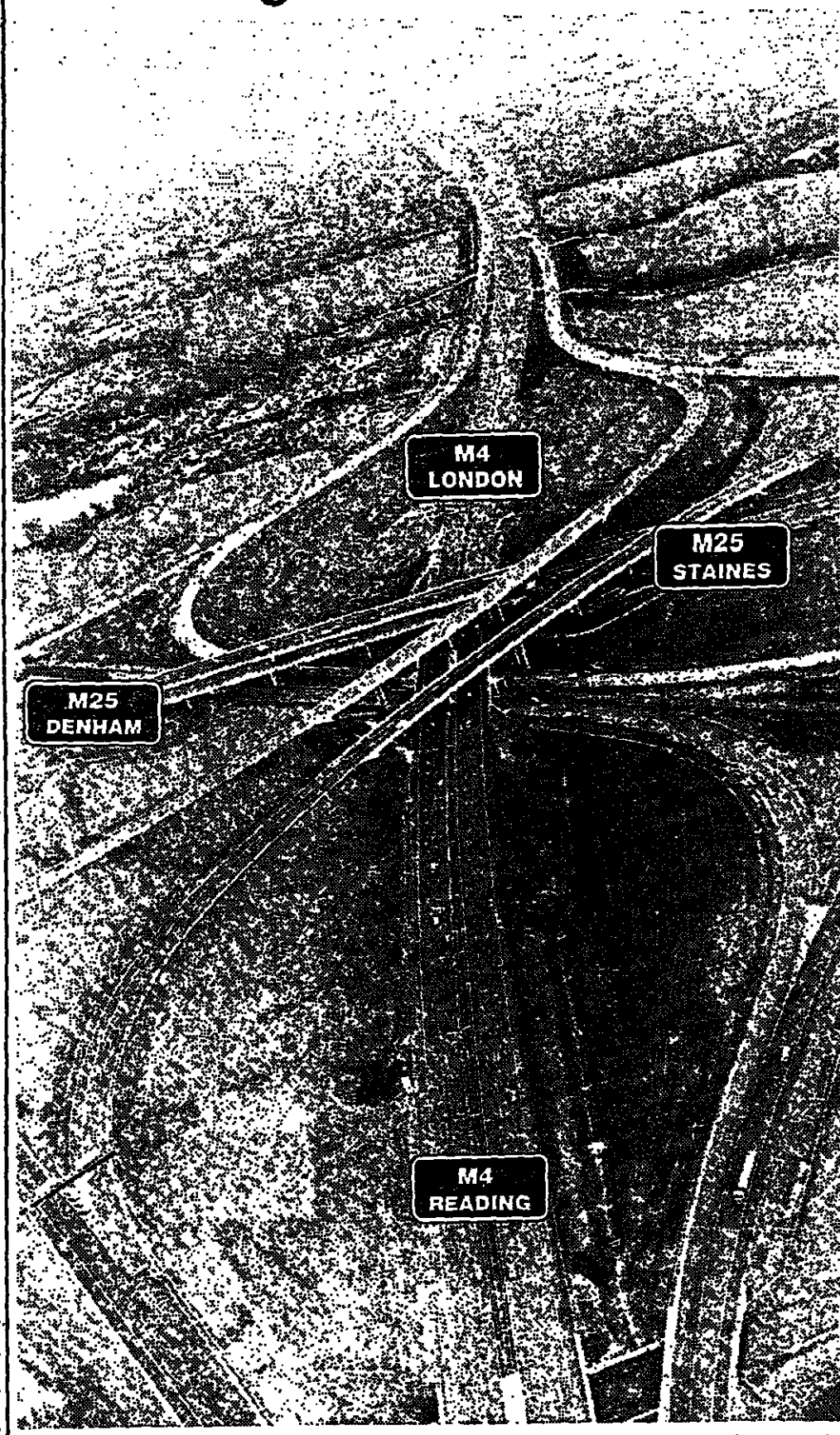
But support was building up last night for the European solution. The president of the Defence Manufacturers Association, Lord Greville, came out in favour of Europe. "In the long term it is in the best interests of the UK and of Europe for Westland to be part of a wholly European capability in helicopters," he said.

One of Europe's largest helicopter distributors, McAlpine Helicopters, also spoke

out against a link with the US company. The chief executive, Mr Robin Keith, said: "I hope that Westland shareholders will think long and hard before entering into something which could eventually lead to the UK being isolated from any future European helicopter partnership."

Sir John remains unimpressed by such arguments. "The deal with Sikorsky secures the company's future and employment in Westland," he said.

Meeting of the motorways



An aerial view of the interchange near Heathrow airport London which will link the M25 and M4 when it opens today (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Left warns Kinnock against big purge

Continued from page 1

They should not make "unnecessary martyrs" out of people who were causing no difficulties, Mr Blunkett said.

"The vote was so close because many of the NEC who are anti-Militant recognize that you do not divide your house when your house is not divided. That is a very foolish position to have arisen. I hope we can avoid it elsewhere."

Mr Blunkett's clash with Mr Benn came when the former Cabinet minister welcomed his attitude on the Green expulsion. But he said it was too late, and that Mr Blunkett should have thought of it before he "started the Liverpool witch-hunt". Mr Blunkett described the remark as an outrage and insult but Mr Benn refused his request to withdraw it.

In other key decisions yesterday the executive decided:

● To order the reselection procedure to be done again in Stoke-on-Trent, North, where Mr John Forster, the sitting MP, was ousted last month. The procedure was found to have been invalid because one of the members who voted in the shortlisting was not a bona fide delegate.

● To suspend the two constituency parties at St Helens, South and St Helens North after allegations of irregularities in the running of the parties' affairs. Both the sitting MPs, Mr Gerald Bermingham and Mr John Evans, are threatened with deselection.

● To give the go-ahead to the reselection procedure in Bristol South, where the former Labour chief whip, Mr Michael Cook, is under serious threat of being ousted. It will take place on January 19.

£100 fine for drink at match

A football supporter who broke the ban on bringing drink into grounds was fined £100 by Mylestone magistrates yesterday.

Allen Hodge, aged 23, a trainee bricklayer, of Elgin Avenue, Kenton, north-west London, admitted possessing two cans of lager, at Queens Park Rangers' ground, Shepherd's Bush, on December 7.

'20% rates rise' in some Tory councils

Continued from page 1

Woking and Epsom in Surrey, and other commuter belt areas, but depressed areas of the North-east would also be hit hard.

The shifts arise because the Government has scrapped the system of targets and penalties to control local government spending, and has used slightly different methods to calculate each area's needs.

Most of the transfer of funds to the big cities stems from technical calculations, which also benefit sparsely-populated rural areas, but local government officials believe the political reason for the shift is to ease pressure on areas facing abolition.

In place of the draconian and ill-understood targets and penalty regime, the Government is introducing a sliding scale. Councils spending above their assessed need will suffer much sharper losses.

Mr Baker said that it made the system "simpler and fairer", and placed responsibility for rate increases next year "more in the hands of local authorities themselves". He predicted that the "national average rate increase" should be in single figures, if authorities budget in line with government plans.

All 32 London boroughs, all 36 metropolitan districts, and about one in three shire district councils face elections next May. The Government clearly hopes that by switching funds to inner-city areas, the sharping will not lead to large rate increases, which could be blamed on abolition and damage the Conservative vote.

Mr Michael Ward, deputy leader of the GLC, said more than £100 million was being poured into London to create the illusion that abolition would save ratepayers' money. "Once this attempt to confuse the situation in the run-up to the borough elections is over, Londoners will face the full costs of abolition."

Parliament, page 4

Percent of government grant in council spending

At announcement At end of year

	At announcement	At end of year
1979/80	80	—
1980/81	80	—
1981/82	80.1	54.9
1982/83	80.1	51.7
1983/84	82.3	48.8
1984/85	81.9	48.8
1985/86	81.7	48.8
1986/87	81.4	48.4

Note: The difference between the two columns from 1981/82 to this year is the amount lost back from over-spending in previous years.

SHARE OF BLOCK GRANT

1985-86 1986-87

	1985-86	1986-87
Shire counties and districts	54,268m	54,268m
Metropolitan districts	22,530m	22,514m
London	21,220m	21,447m

Mr Baker said that ratepayers in London and the metropolitan counties would benefit significantly from abolition, if districts, boroughs and other successor bodies carried out their inherited tasks more efficiently.

The other key component in the Government's strategy announced yesterday is the final rate-capping list. Twelve councils will be capped, seven of which have already applied for and won increases in their allowed spending.

"If local authorities budget sensibly and economically, the average rate increase next year should be no higher than this year and it could be lower," Mr Baker said. There was now a "clearer relationship between what councils get and what they spend".

Mr Jack Layden, chairman of the AMA, said that ratepayers had lost nearly £16,000 million in government grant since 1979, but nobody could predict how much rates would increase "because the system of local government finance is such a complicated shambles".

Mr John Morgan, chairman of the ADC, said that the unfair distribution of next year's grant "highlights the wholly inaccurate assessment on the part of central government of what local authorities need to spend in their own areas".

He believed that the "off and long-promised alternative" of a new system for financing local government was now "extremely overhanging".

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RATE-CAPPED COUNCILS

Spending level below 1981-82 level

Council	Spending level below 1981-82 level	Spending level above 1981-82 level
Greenwich	158,918	0.2
Hackney	55,228	0.8
Haringey	128,572	-11.1
Islington	102,613	-2.7
Waltham	102,613	-18.2
Lambeth	122,309	-3.1
Leamington	115,594	0.9
Liverpool	225,425	1.6
Newcastle	154,622	1.6
Southwark	134,139	-7.1
Seashell	13,682	4.8
Thamesdown	14,159	-4.4

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne attends a lunch held by the Association of American Correspondents in London, Brown's Hotel, W1, 12.45; and then, as President, the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, opens the offices shared by the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council and the British Clothing Industries Association, 7 Waterloo Place, W1, 3. later, as Past Master of the Farriers' Company, she attends the Christmas carol service, St Michael Paternoster Royal, London, 5.55.

Princess Alexandra attends the annual carol concert of the Mental Health Foundation given by the London Welsh Male Voice Choir, Guildhall, EC2, 7.15.

Princess Michael of Kent attends the Weavers' Company Christmas party, Weavers House, E11, 3.

New exhibitions

The Ashton Bequest Victorian paintings: Municipal Museum and Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tisbury Wells; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends Dec 31).

Exhibitions in progress

Christmas crafts by local craftsmen: Portico Library Gallery, Mosley St, Manchester; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 4.30 (ends Dec 24).

Patrick Proctor, prints: Deansgate Art Gallery, Civic Centre; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4 (ends Jan 25).

Household taste exhibition: Cleveland Gallery, Victoria Rd, Middlesbrough; Tues to Sat 12 to 7 (ends Jan 25).

Scottish craftwork: Art Gallery and Museum, Kilmarnock; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 25).

Drawings by Bonnard; (ends Jan 12); Ian Hardie photographer (ends Jan 11); Art Gallery & Museum, Kilmarnock; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 25).

Photographs from Belgium by Frank Peeters; MacLaurin Art Gallery, Kilmarnock; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 25).

Carmarthen Museum Collection of Samplers; Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends Jan 18).

ABC of Flutes - constructions by Hazel Jones and paintings by Michael Leigh; Kilmarnock Art Gallery; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Jan 25).

Colour photographs by Tim Smith; Untitled Gallery, 171-175 Howard Rd, Sheffield; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Jan 11).

The photography of Weegee the Famous; Computer generated images by Stephen Bell; Hand signals; various works featuring hands; Ikon Gallery, 53-72 John Bright St, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Jan 18).

The Lost Plane and other works - prints by Linda Kanner; Pokin and Pud - a Fairy Grotto Christmas Room designed and made by Peter Ellis; Andrew Knight Gallery, 31 Charles Street, Cardiff; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 11).

Christmas music for European Festive Music for Christmas by Mary Truelove (soprano), Deryck Webb (tenor), and Colin Stuart (piano); Solihull Library Theatre, 1.

Christmas concert by Doncaster Schools Concert Band; Hallcross Comprehensive School, Thorpe Rd, Doncaster, 7.30.

Christmas concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Birmingham Town Hall, 7.30.

Carols with the Hull Choral Union; Beverley High School Choir and the East Riding Brass Ensemble; City Hall, Hull, 7.30.

Carols old and new by the Sheffield Oratorio Chorus and the Ecclesfield School Handbell Ringers; Sheffield Cathedral, 7.30.

Ron Goodwin's Christmas Songs with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Bournemouth International Centre, 7.30.

Christmas concert by the North-on Sinfonia Chorus with Maran Aitchison (soprano) and Leonard Lynch (baritone); St George's Church, Gatehead, 7.30.

Peter Symonds College carol service; Winchester Cathedral, 7.30.

Daughter in queer turn - a frozen waist, we hear (5).

Emblem of the trummer associated with Charlie Martell (6.3.6).

He had no concealed - a source of worry (8).

Having no defence, half the members have gone (7).

Do a Dandel, snarling with a throaty sound (9).

Hair blowers one left out for making fluffs (9).

No order for a new rig for a Scandinavian (9).

Be devil, get run in - help! (8).

Disb, a bit battered (7).

Defective organ played by Snout on sight (4-5).

Verse about a king in eastern dress (6).

Not an upright proceeding (5).

Eg. Mr Pott the paper maker (6).

Shakespearean heroine is a Miss Wilfer (5).

Dismissed by ball from spinner rising (8).

The theologian to ignore Creation (6).

Apply a coating of paste (6).

Designer seen in re-capitalization (8).

Wicked sister wears spectacles for cooking with (7).

Navy not the outfit for a sporty Cambridgean (5,4).

The Times Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues will appear in the Saturday section this Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Solution of Puzzle No 16,923

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2 Ambassador to Havana a tragic figure (6).

3 Composer takes a measure of port (6).

4 Peter is after beef in the food store (4-4).

5 Flower beds in average condition with French soil (8).

6 O'Hara bowled out - a duck - with hands on hips (6).

7 One of Palmerston's stupid actions on the S coast? (5).

8 Overacting made delivery clumsy (13-6).

9 Judge has not finished, and orders plebs (9).

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